Hollywood and its Top Gun complex

P22

DH on Saturday

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Lakshya Sen in All England Open semis

Shuttler thrashes World No. 6 Li Shi Feng

P23

PRM/KA/RERA/1250/303/PR/170905/000071

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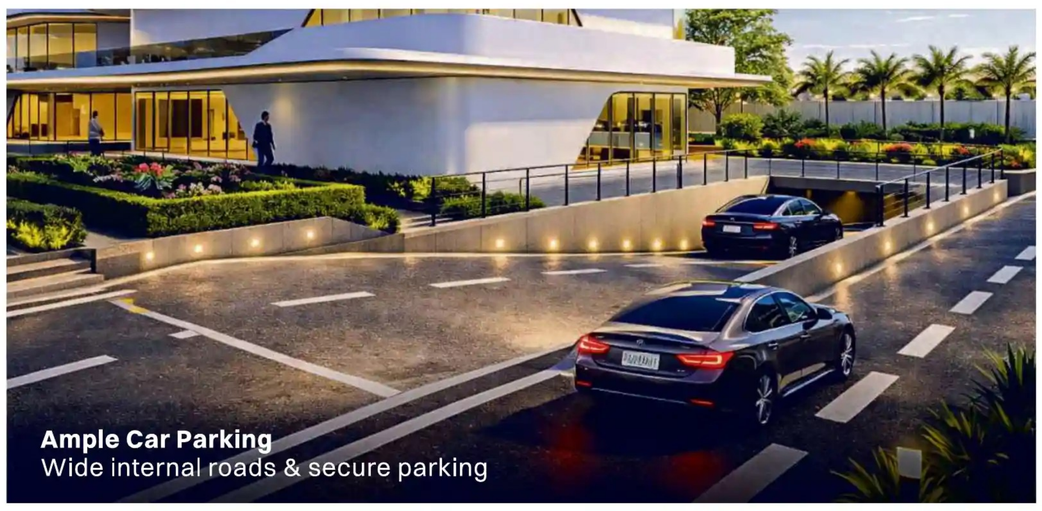

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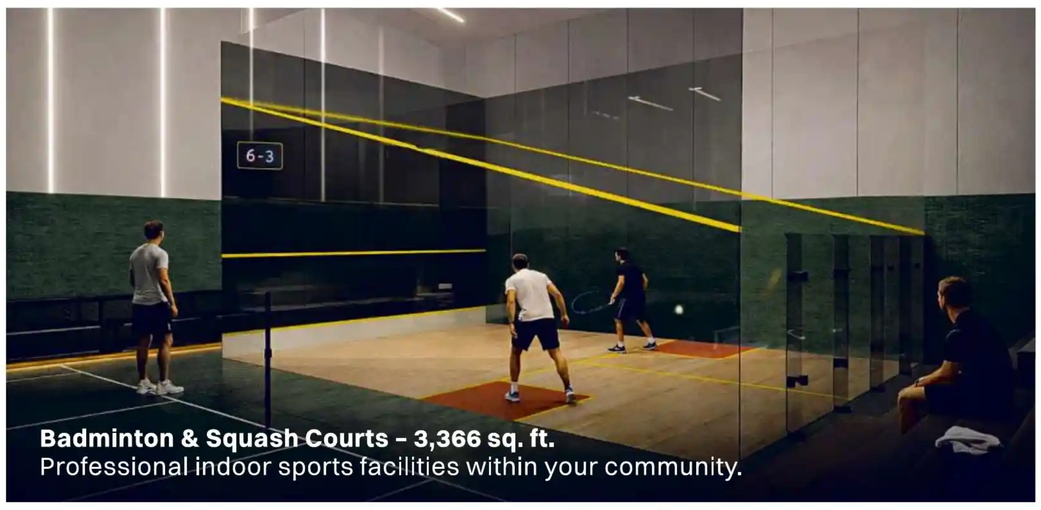

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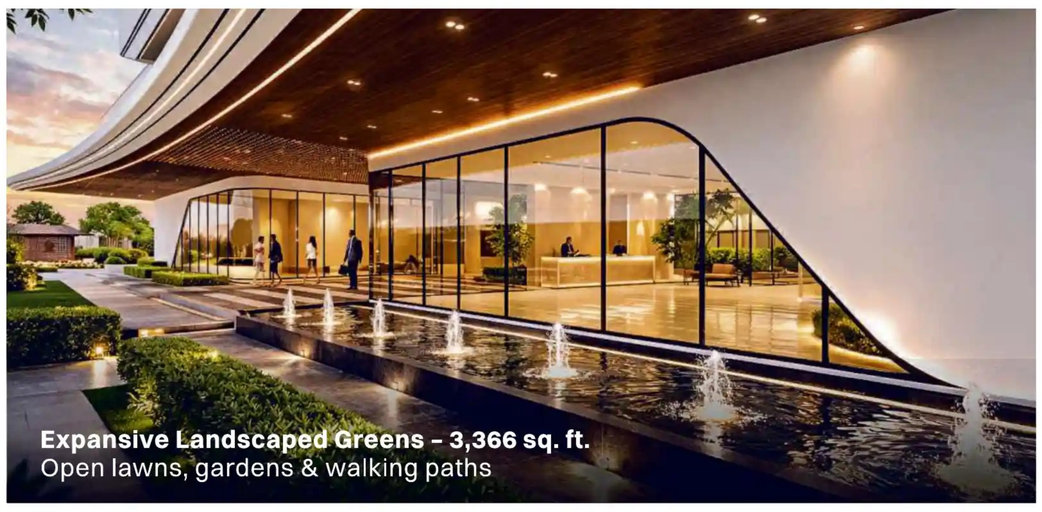

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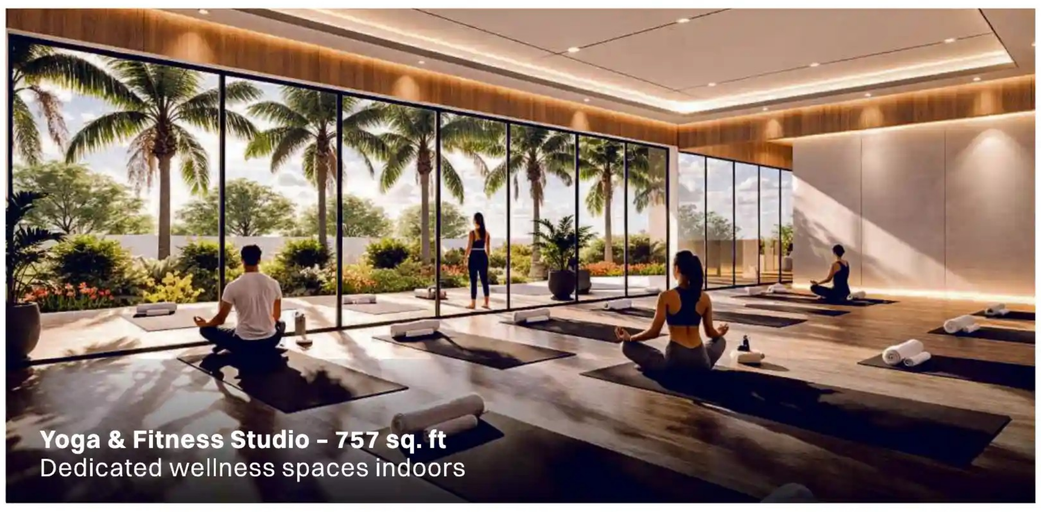

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Bengaluru Saturday, March 7, 2026 Pages 36 Vol 79 No 66 ₹8

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The story of India's only luge champion

The SATURDAY STORY

At 16, luger Shiva Keshavan was the only Indian athlete at the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan. Over the next 20 years, he competed in five more editions.

In the Saturday Story, the 44-year-old recalls the several challenges he faced to pursue a relatively unknown sport in India.

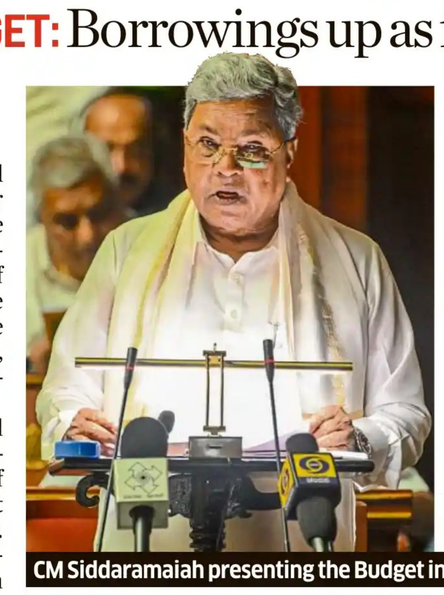
Full story, Page 21

₹4.48Lcr Budget size | **₹3.15Lcr** Revenue receipts | **₹3.38Lcr** Revenue expenditure | **₹74,682cr** Capital expenditure | **₹1.32Lcr** Borrowings | **₹2.20Lcr** Own-tax revenue | **₹16,000cr** Non-tax revenue

Kids off social media; Mysuru to be IT hub

SIDDU BUDGET: Borrowings up as fiscal position worsens; women, Ahinda get focus

BHARATH JOSHI
BENGALURU, DHNS



CM Siddaramaiah presenting the Budget in the Legislative Assembly on Friday.

Thrust for Bengaluru

- **Rs 3,000 cr** for white-topping of 450 km roads over 3 years
- Rs 450 cr Development of Outer Ring Road
- 100 skywalks to be constructed over next 3 years
- 175 junctions to be beautified over next 3 years
- 500 km of footpaths to be developed of over in 3 years
- **41 km** of additional metro lines to be completed in 2026-27
- Construction of 9-km-long pedestrian walkway along metro viaduct on ORR
- **Revised Master Plan-2041** to be implemented by the end of 2027
- **Bengaluru Business Corridor** to be completed within 4 years
- Comprehensive Mobility Plan to be prepared within six months

Karnataka will ban social media for children under 16 and the picturesque Mysuru will be developed to decongest Bengaluru, said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, whose 2026-27 Budget revealed the state's deepening financial woes, forcing him to stick to such reformist announcements.

In spite of a widening fiscal deficit, Siddaramaiah has presented an ambitious outlay of Rs 4.48 lakh crore in an attempt to speak to all sections of society.

Given the financial constraints, including an allocation of Rs 51,286 crore for the 'guarantee' schemes, Siddaramaiah had to pick his battles. And one of them was to keep children from the ills of social media.

"With the objective of preventing adverse effects of increasing mobile use on children, use of social media will be banned for children under the age of 16," Siddaramaiah said. The government, however, did not explain how this will be implemented. Regulations will be framed for this, he said.

Decongesting Bengaluru, a city hogging headlines for its traffic and bad infrastructure, is another battle the government has picked.

Easing Bengaluru's burden will now be upon Mysuru, Siddaramaiah's native place, which will be developed as the state's second IT city. Mysuru already has 30,000 employees across 100 IT companies, he said.

In his record 17th Budget, Siddaramaiah has announced programmes for women, farmers, backward classes, SC/STs and minorities, some of them either have a minor allocation or a long-term rollout plan.

Siddaramaiah also made it a point to discuss jobs. "This year, we have initiated the process to fill 56,432 posts," he said. He even announced a programme of providing loans up to Rs 5 lakh to help unemployed youth start "modern laundries". Plus, an online employment exchange scheme called 'Kayaka Bhagya' will be implemented to provide skill-based jobs to workers in the unorganised sector.

But a bigger battle awaits Siddaramaiah in the next fiscal: meeting revenue targets.

For the fiscal ending 2025-26, Siddaramaiah reduced the budget size to Rs 3.95 lakh crore owing to a revenue shortfall. To achieve an expenditure of Rs 4.48 lakh crore with a saturated tax base seems difficult.

Sample this: Siddaramaiah has fixed an own-tax revenue collection target of Rs 2.20 lakh crore for the upcoming fiscal, a modest rise from the earlier Rs 2.08 lakh crore. Revenue shortfall also meant that capital expenditure fell 7% to Rs 65,982 crore in the current fiscal. For 2026-27, capital expenditure is estimated at Rs 74,682 crore.

▸ Siddu Budget, Page 3A

Alcohol price curbs scrapped

In an overhaul of the Excise Act, the CM announced a shift to a global taxation standard and deregulation of alcohol pricing. Starting April, taxes will be levied based on alcohol content and not volume.

Details on Page 7

Victoria to be Gopalagowda hospital

The British-era Victoria Hospital in Bengaluru has been renamed Shantaveri Gopalagowda Hospital after the former MLA and socialist leader. CM Siddaramaiah made major announcements in the health sector.

Rs 1.5k cr to curb wildlife conflicts

A Rs 1,500-cr commitment for a five-year plan to mitigate wildlife conflicts and a promise to fill vacancies in the forest department were highlights of the budget which otherwise glossed over major challenges posed by climate change.

Details on Page 9

Loans to fund B'luru infra

CM Siddaramaiah presented his Budget with several infrastructure projects announced for Bengaluru. However, a key takeaway of the Budget is the increasing reliance on external funding and loans including 'municipal bonds' to execute projects.

Details on Page 6

US gives 30-day waiver to India for Russian oil imports

Amid concerns over supply disruptions due to Iran war

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Trump administration has granted India a "30-day waiver" to allow it import Russian oil, US Secretary of Treasury Scott Bessent said, as the West Asia conflict triggered concerns in New Delhi over energy supplies.

The waiver came a month after the US lifted the 25% punitive tariffs on imports from India for the latter's purchase of Russian oil.

"President Trump's energy agenda has resulted in oil and gas production reaching the highest levels ever recorded. To enable oil to keep flowing into the global market, the Treasury Department is issuing a temporary 30-day waiver to allow Indian refiners to purchase Russian oil," Bessent posted on X early on Friday. "This deliberately short-term measure will not provide significant financial benefit to the Russian government, as it only authorises transactions involving oil already stranded at sea."

▸ Waiver, Page 3B

Iran ship crew sheltered in Kochi, Page 15
Tehran nudges India to condemn attacks, Page 15

Refiners turn to Russian oil tankers at sea

Indian refiners have begun buying some of the over 15 million barrels of Russian crude currently floating on tankers near the country, as they move to offset supply concerns.

Details on Page 19

'Unconditional surrender': Trump to Iran

US President Donald Trump demanded Iran's "unconditional surrender" on Friday, a dramatic escalation of his demands a week into the war he launched alongside Israel.

Details on Page 18

Nitish's exit could have repercussions outside Bihar

SUMIT PANDE
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Nitish Kumar's decision to opt out of Bihar politics could have wider political repercussions in the heartland states, which makes the selection of the next Bihar CM a tricky proposition for the BJP, as the party weighs its options with extreme caution in laying out the succession plan for the Patliputra crown.

Nitish Kumar's ascension in Bihar politics symbolised two dominant post-Mandal strains in Indian politics.

First, the decentralisation of power from the dominant to numerically smaller groups. And the emergence of a social coalition between the non-Yadav backward classes and the upper caste. In Bihar, Nitish Kumar personified this phenomenon. While the BJP brought the upper caste to the table, Nitish sought to mobilise the backward caste groups to become the longest-serving CM.

▸ Nitish, Page 4
Nitish's son to join JD(U) tomorrow, Page 15

In Nepal polls, newly formed RSP heading for landslide

KATHMANDU, PTI

RSP supporters cheer as counting of votes began in Kathmandu on Friday, a day after Nepal's polls. AFP

Rapper-turned-politician Balendra Shah's newly formed Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) was on Friday heading towards a sweeping victory in Nepal's first general elections since the violent Gen Z protests, shattering the dominance of established political parties in the politically fragile nation.

According to the Election Commission's data available from 161 of the total 165 constituencies, the RSP has won four seats and is ahead in 110 others, local media reported.

Balendra Shah, who was the Mayor of Kathmandu till recently, is leading by more than 10,000 votes in Jhapa-5 constituency against four-time prime minister and CPN-UML chair K P Sharma Oli in the latter's stronghold.

Popularly known as 'Balen', the 35-year-old engineer is expected to be the next prime minister of Nepal, reflecting a public mood of rejection of established parties. Nepal has had 14 governments in the last 18 years.

The Nepali Congress has won two seats and is leading in 13 others, while the CPN-UML is leading in 11 constituencies. The Nepali Communist Party has won one and is leading in seven constituencies.

Out of a total of 275 members of the Parliament, 165 will be directly elected, while the rest will be elected through a proportionate method.

Two IAF pilots killed in Su-30 crash in Assam

Two IAF pilots died after a Su-30 fighter aircraft crashed in Assam during a night training sortie on Thursday. The IAF on Friday said Squadron Leader Anuj and Flight Lieutenant Purvesh Durgakar, lost their lives following the crash. The aircraft lost contact with radar after taking off from Jorhat airbase and crashed on a hill.

Pak, Afghan clashes displace more than 1 lakh

Pakistani and Afghan troops exchanged fire at dozens of points along their border on Friday as the UN said their week-old conflict has forced the displacement of more than 1,00,000 people. Combat has included Pakistani air strikes on Taliban government installations, such as the Bagram air base north of Kabul.

P 18

ACED IT

Med graduate from Raj tops civil services exam

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Anuj Agnihotri, who topped the civil services examination 2025, celebrates with family members, in Rajasthan's Chittorgarh on Friday. PTI

Anuj Agnihotri, an MBBS graduate from Rajasthan's Chittorgarh district, has topped the civil services examination 2025, the results of which were declared by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on Friday.

The UPSC said that 958 aspirants, including 299 women, had cleared the exam.

An Electrical and Electronics engineer, Rajeshwari Suve M and Commerce graduate Akansh Dhull came second and third, followed by Economics graduate Raghav Jhunjhunwala and law graduate Ishan Bhatnagar.

While Agnihotri, who did his MBBS from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Jodhpur, qualified with medical science as his optional subject, Rajeshwari chose Sociology and Akansh opted for Commerce and Accountancy.

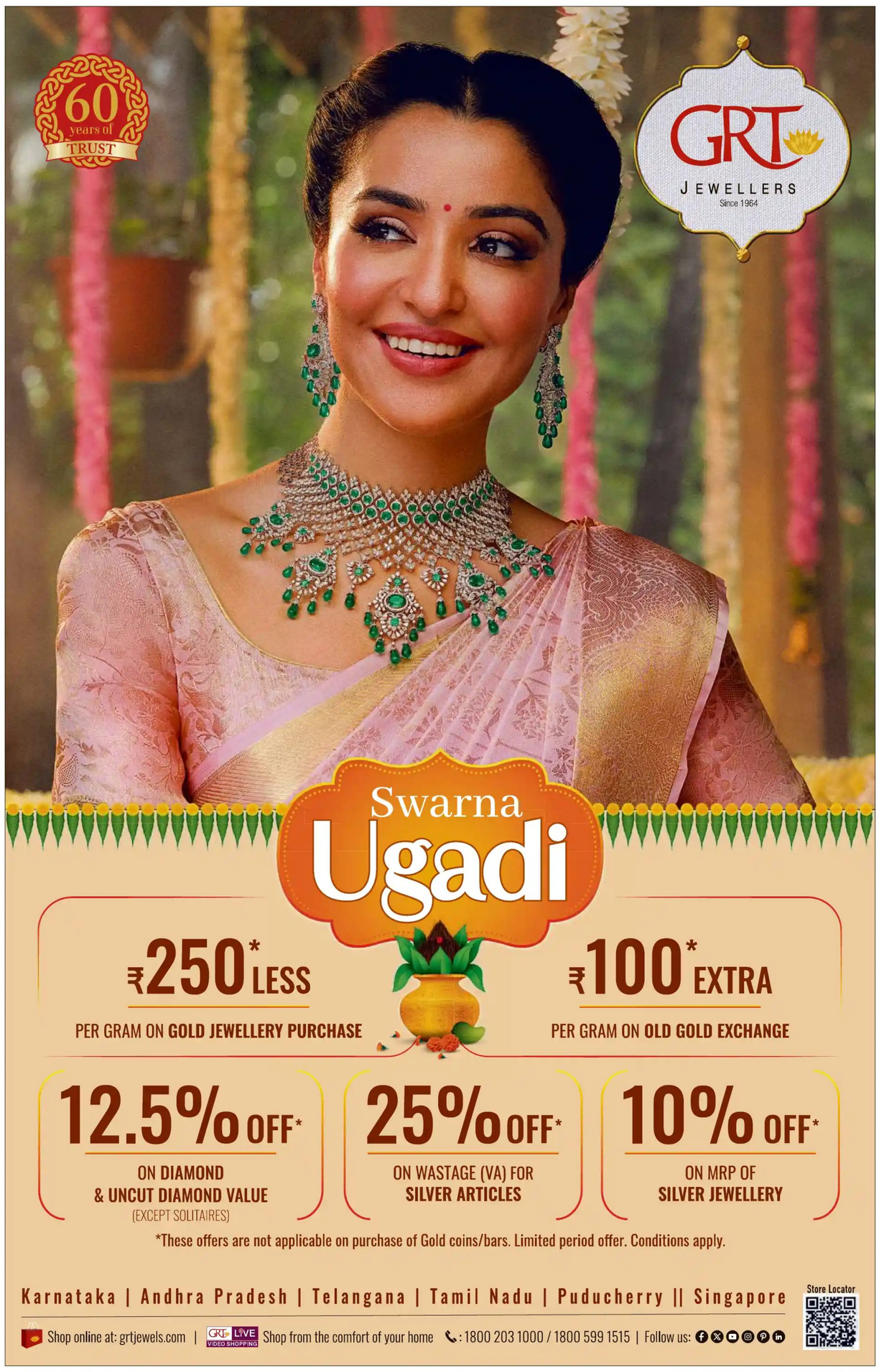
"I am extremely happy at this achievement. It is an incredible feeling; still taking time to process this success. The constant support from my family has been my biggest source of inspiration. They prioritised me and my efforts, and ensured that I focused on the exam. I dedicate this achievement to my family," said Anuj.

▸ UPSC, Page 4

Two from Karnataka in top 100

Kiran Kamate from Hattaaravata village in Chikkodi taluk of Belagavi district achieved All India Rank 53 and became the state topper. The state's second best performer is Sandeep Badad, a resident of Gandhi Nagar, Yadgir. He secured 82nd AIR.

Details on Page 4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Meeting Bengaluru's power demand

How much power does Bengaluru need in the next 10 years? How is the city planning to meet it?

POWER FOR FUTURE

BENGALURU, DHNS

Solar panels on top of a building in Bengaluru. DH FILE PHOTO

Peak power demand in Bengaluru city

Year	Peak Load in MWs	Percentage Rise in Load w.r.t Previous Year	Total Energy Consumption in MUs	Percentage Rise in Energy Consumption w.r.t Previous Year
2017-18	2,835	**1%**	17,014.36	2%
2018-19	2,971	**5%**	17,609.62	3%
2019-20	3,081	**4%**	18,786.64	6%
2020-21	2,832	**8%**	16,545.30	-14%
2021-22	2,980	**5%**	17,274.79	4%
2022-23	3,505	**17.6%**	19,105.94	10.6%
2023-24	3,777	**7.8%**	22,225.70	16.3%
2024-25	4,030	**6.7%**	23,098.4	3.9%
2025-26 (till Feb-26)	4,124	**2.3%**	21,683.2	-6.1%

Hosting more than 1/5th of the state's population, the ever-expanding city of Bengaluru is going to see increased demand for power in future. Population growth and rapid urbanisation in Bengaluru have significantly increased the number of residential connections, thereby contributing to higher domestic electricity consumption. The growing usage of energy-intensive appliances such as air conditioners and electric cooking appliances is further contributing to the rise in peak electricity demand. This will also only increase in future.

Another factor is economic expansion, particularly the growth of IT industries, data centres, commercial establishments, start-ups, and manufacturing units in and around the city, which require an uninterrupted, high-quality power supply, thereby directly increasing the city's base and peak demand.

Infrastructure projects such as metro rail expansion, development of new industrial corridors and peripheral townships, as well as increased adoption of electric vehicles, are expected to add substantial load to the system. Bengaluru hosts several educational and research institutions, attracting a large student population and associated infrastructure such as hostels, research facilities, and technology parks, which contribute to increased electricity consumption. The job-related migration to Bengaluru has increased residential electricity consumption. Bengaluru Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM), tasked with managing the city's power supply, has no exact estimate of how much power will increase over the next 10 years. But the officials say that historical load growth is one of the primary indicators for understanding past consumption trends, seasonal variations, and peak demand behaviour. By analysing previous years' load patterns, reliable projections can be made about future demand growth.

Solar as a hope

BESCOM officials say that Bengaluru has emerged as one of the leading cities in rooftop solar adoption. "While this does reduce energy sales from prosumers (producers who are also consumers)—since they offset their consumption through self-generation—it is aligned with Karnataka's renewable energy goals. Revenue impact is primarily on energy charges, while fixed charges continue to support grid maintenance," says a note from the office of General Manager, Demand and Supply Management (DSM), BESCOM.

"Going forward, BESCOM will continue to implement net-metering in accordance with regulatory provisions, while ensuring grid stability and equitable cost recovery. The focus is on balancing consumer participation in renewable energy with the utility's financial sustainability," it says.

BESCOM is actively increasing its renewable energy portfolio, aiming to add 5000-6000 megawatts of renewable energy. The focus is on distributed renewable energy (DRE), particularly distributed solar, which is a cheaper energy form and reduces stress on transmission infrastructure, because it is distirbuted in the same grid as it is produced, without going to the substations

BESCOM Managing Director N Shivashankara explains the logic of how solar helps the company reduce the costs. Thermal power costs Rs 6.99 per unit, and hydroelectric power costs Rs 1.03 per unit. Solar is in between, and costs less than Rs 5. The more solar power BESCOM generates locally, the transmission cost and power procurement charge both reduce. When power demand increases in the city, BESCOM inevitably has to buy more power from wherever it can. In such situations, locally produced power helps reduce the burden.

Power supply initiatives, such as PM Kusum and PM Suryaghar, are being implemented to manage energy demand effectively. Projects like the 750-megawatt solar plant under the PM-Kusum C scheme aim to integrate low-cost energy sources.

Peak load projection

Year	Peak Load in MWs	% Rise in Load	Total Energy Consumption (MUs)	% Rise in Energy
2025-26 (till Feb-26)	4,124	2.30%	21,683.2	-6.10%
2026-27 (Projected)	**4,330**	**5%**	**22,767.36**	**5%**
2027-28 (Projected)	4,547	5%	23,905.73	5%

Data shared by BESCOM shows that solar adoption is increasing in the city every year. There are 22,219 installations supplying 4,60,226.63 kilowatt-peak of power in the city as of today.

Promotion of EV adoption as a strategy

BESCOM is also expanding its electric vehicle charging station network (currently 209 stations) and aims to encourage EV penetration through low pricing, as the users of BESCOM charging stations are largely gig workers, delivery personnel and autorickshaw drivers.

"The organisation views EV charging as a social service to encourage adoption, despite the potential for higher profits," says N Shivashankara, Managing Director of BESCOM. BESCOM is not looking to monetise charging infrastructure at present. EV adoption is an opportunity and a responsibility for BESCOM, say officials. The focus now is on expanding the charging infrastructure. "While EV charging contributes incremental energy sales, our primary focus is grid readiness, load management, and future demand planning. Managed charging, time-of-day tariffs, and renewable energy integration are part of our strategy. EV growth is therefore seen not merely as a revenue stream, but as an integral component of Bengaluru's clean energy transition," says a note for BESCOM.

BESCOM estimates the city's EV energy demand at 955.37 mega units and a load of 363.54 megawatts by 2030. This was 257.31 megaunits and 97.91 megawatts in 2025.

As of today, Bengaluru has 8,81,006 commercial connections and 59,82,156 domestic connections, which consume 5104.68 megaunits and 7399.63 megaunits respectively.

Demand side management

BESCOM officials say the widespread adoption of LED lighting has significantly reduced household and commercial electricity consumption compared to conventional incandescent and fluorescent lighting. BESCOM encourages people to use 5-star-rated appliances as specified by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE). Appliances with higher star ratings are designed to consume less electricity while delivering the same level of performance, thereby reducing energy losses and improving end-use efficiency. Officials say that through these initiatives, BESCOM can lower overall system demand and reduce peak-load pressures.

"We remain committed to leading India's clean energy transition by promoting rooftop solar and accelerating electric mobility. Our policies are designed to empower consumers, ensure affordable EV charging, and maintain utilities' financial health. By supporting infrastructure upgrades, regulatory reforms, and sustainable tariff frameworks, we are building a future-ready power sector where renewable energy expansion, clean transportation, and grid reliability progress hand in hand," says a response from state Energy Minister K J George's office.

Rooftop solar adoption in Bengaluru

	Yearwise Total	
Year	**Nos**	**Output (kWp)**
2014-15	**29**	**379.2**
2015-16	**368**	**7,747**
2016-17	**550**	**45,026**
2017-18	284	39,870.8
2018-19	**402**	**21,670**
2019-20	700	21,450.1
2020-21	**717**	**16,563**
2021-22	1,344	34,033.3
2022-23	**1,675**	**42,992.21**
2023-24	3,138	63,302.9
2024-25	**7,462**	**94,592.862**
2025-26	5,550	72,599.26
Total	**22,219**	**4,60,226.63**

DATA COURTESY: BESCOM

Feedback: pointblank@ deccanherald.co.in

METRO

Bengaluru East expedites drain desilting ahead of rains

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru East City Corporation Commissioner DS Ramesh on Friday directed divisional executive engineers to expedite drain desilting across major roads to ensure smooth rainwater flow.

Inspecting works at K Narayanapura, Horamavu, and Kaggadasapura Railway Gate, Ramesh said proactive maintenance is needed to prevent waterlogging and traffic gridlock the city faces during heavy rain.

The corporation also launched an encroachment clearance drive in AECS Layout. The operation targeted a 1.6-kilometre stretch along 60 Feet Road, from Ganesha Temple to ITPL Main Road.

The commissioner said the drive is not a one-time event and will continue on both sides of the road in the coming days to reclaim pedestrian space.

Clearing Varthur stretch

A cleaning drive was also carried out on the 700-metre stretch from Varthur Kodi to Varthur. Officials said more than six tonnes of debris and waste have been removed.

The operation focused on clearing accumulated dust, illegal flex banners, and unauthorised tiles placed by shopkeepers on public property.

Woman rescued from 25-ft pit

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 56-year-old woman was rescued by the Chandra Layout police after she fell into a 25-foot pit near a public park in Nagarabhavi early on Friday.

Police said the woman was returning home after visiting a temple around 11 pm when she fell into the pit and could not get out. She called her family, and her son contacted the 112 emergency helpline.

Hoysala patrol staff from the Chandra Layout police station, Assistant Sub-Inspector Srinivas Murthy and Head Constable Vinoda KM reached the spot in minutes and traced her using her phone location.

HC restores punishment for Class 12 student caught with mobile phone

Court declares carrying phone to exams a grave violation

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka High Court has restored the punishment imposed on a Class 12 student from a Bengaluru school who was found in possession of a mobile phone during an examination.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Poonacha observed that, pursuant to the decision of the governing body of the CBSE in June 2024, even possession of a mobile phone is stipulated as a 'Category-3' offence. The prescribed punishment is the cancellation of the current as well as the next year's examination in all subjects.

The student had appeared for the Class 12 CBSE examinations held between February 17 and March 11, 2025.

The examination centre was about 23 km from his residence. On the first day of the examination (Physical Education), the invigilator noticed a mobile phone in the student's pocket about 25 minutes after the exam began.

The phone was seized, and the student was given a fresh question paper and answer booklet, which he completed. He was also permitted to appear for the remaining papers.

However, after the examinations concluded, the student was called for an inquiry. He stated that he had arrived late at the examination centre and rushed into the classroom, inadvertently carrying the mobile phone in his pocket. The inquiry also found that there was no examination-related material on the phone.

The committee nevertheless recommended punishment under Category-3. Based on this recommendation, the CBSE ordered cancellation of the student's current as well as next year's examinations in all subjects for use of unfair means (UFM), in accordance with the amended guidelines.

On August 23, 2025, a single bench of the court allowed the student's petition, quashed the CBSE communication, and directed the board to declare his results.

Challenging the order, the CBSE filed an appeal, contending that the guidelines had been clearly communicated to students, including through the admit card issued for the examination, which specifically states that "mobile and other communication devices are not allowed inside the examination centre".

The division bench noted that possession of a mobile phone falls under "Unfair Means Category-3", which prescribes cancellation of the current and the next year's examinations in full.

The modified by-laws state that a mobile phone is an electronic device that can be used for communication and carries a high risk of leakage of question papers or sabotage of the examination process. Therefore, mobile phones and other electronic devices have been placed on the same footing under Category-3, attracting severe penalties.

The bench further noted that, pursuant to the decision of the CBSE Governing Body at its 139th meeting held on June 24, 2024, even mere possession of a mobile phone has been classified as a Category-3 offence.

"...even mere possession of a mobile phone has been mentioned in Category-3, which prescribes a stringent penalty, which has been imposed in the present case. The said aspect having been proposed, discussed and ratified by an expert body, this court cannot substitute its opinion with that of the expert body. The question of reading down an aspect which has been specifically removed from Category-1 and inserted into Category-3 by an expert body cannot arise in proceedings under Article 226 of the Constitution of India," the bench said.

Parcel with obscene photos, rotten vegetables sent to KIA office

BENGALURU, DHNS: A bizarre parcel containing rotten vegetables, discarded items and obscene photographs of men and women, allegedly sent to an administrative office at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), has led to a police complaint for harassment and creating fear among staff.

A senior police officer said Manjunath, an administrative staff member at KIA, filed a case against the suspect, identified as Bose Bodh Bandaranaike, who reportedly roamed various locations within the airport between January 6 and 22.

He visited the post office inside the airport and sent a cotton box parcel addressed to the office. When opened, officials found rotten tomatoes, decayed flower garlands, iron pieces, a toothpaste cover, and obscene photographs.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the accused sent the parcel to mentally harass KIAL officers and staff. The complainant further said that the items were intended to create fear and suspicion of black magic, disturbing employees as they carried out their duties, police said.

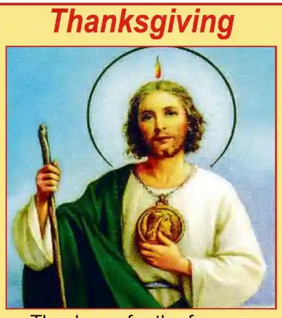
"Airport police have registered a case, and efforts are on to nab the accused, whose movements were captured on CCTV. The suspect, believed to be between 35 and 40 years, will be questioned to ascertain his motive after he is taken into custody."

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving

Thank you for the favours received for V. K.
- J. S and C.S.

Thanksgiving



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West Asia crisis fallout: 33 flights cancelled at KIA

BENGALURU, DHNS: As the conflict in West Asia continues, flight operations at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) remained affected on Friday, with 33 flights cancelled due to the ongoing airspace restrictions.

Eighteen arrival flights and 15 departure flights were cancelled, affecting services to Abu Dhabi, Riyadh, Jeddah, Dammam, Dubai, and Doha.

Pradeep Reddy, who had booked a Friday morning flight to visit his daughter in Dubai, had to cancel his plans. "My daughter is studying there, and she is only 19. We wanted her to come to India amidst all the chaos, but she is not able to since she has exams. So, I decided that I would go to Dubai to be with her. We did not want her to be scared and alone," he told *DH*.

However, a limited number of flights continue to operate between West Asia and India.

On Friday, Air India Express operated flight IX1116 from Dubai to Bengaluru. It arrived at KIA at 9.23 am with 181 passengers.

Vocal concert today

BENGALURU, DHNS: Sri Rama Lalitha Kala Mandira will present a vocal concert by Karthik Mattur with Vishwajith Mattur (violin), Phanindra Bhaskara (mridanga) and Sumukh Karanth (khanjira) at 5.30 pm on Saturday at SRLKM concert hall, BSK 2nd Stage.

Over 120 Bangladeshi nationals detained in city

BENGALURU, DHNS: In a special drive, the city police on Friday detained 124 Bangladeshi nationals who were allegedly residing illegally in makeshift sheds within the limits of the Kadugodi and Varthur police stations.

Four teams from the Central Crime Branch (CCB) conducted the operation following directions from Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh to identify foreign nationals staying illegally in and around the city.

Those detained include 48 men, 42 women, and 34 children. Police said they had constructed temporary sheds and were living there without valid documents.

All of them are currently being questioned, and a report has been submitted to the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) for further action, including possible deportation.

A senior police officer said that during the special drive conducted over the past few days, around 200 foreign nationals staying illegally in the city have been taken into custody.

The drive will continue as police initiate further legal action.

White-topping on Tank Bund Road to be completed by month-end

BENGALURU, DHNS: White-topping work on Tank Bund Road will be completed by March-end, officials told Greater Bengaluru Authority Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao during an inspection on Friday.

Of the total 419 metres of road development, 300 metres on one side were concreted on Thursday night.

The remaining 119 metres will be completed on Friday night, with auxiliary works to finish within the month.

Evening waste clearance

Rao directed officials to clear illegal garbage dumping black spots in the evening using auto tippers where required.

Inspecting the Chamarajpet Assembly constituency, Rao asked officials to monitor chronic dumping spots and impose fines on violators.

Focus on pourakarmikas

During a visit to the Chalavadi Palya muster centre, Rao shared tea with pourakarmikas and reviewed their welfare.

To reduce the physical strain of manual sweeping, the city plans to procure mechanised sweeping machines through CSR initiatives.

Younger workers interested in driving will be identified and trained by the BMTC to operate the electric machines.

Rao also said workers must wear uniforms and safety gear and ensure dust and leaves are cleared along with regular waste.

Video of dogs tied, dumped into truck sparks outrage

Activists seek probe after inhumane capture of strays at DRDO Phase 2 Township

BENGALURU, DHNS

Activists on Friday objected to the alleged inhumane capture of dogs at DRDO Phase 2 Township in CV Raman Nagar. They contended that the manner in which the dogs were caught and later dumped into the van was cruel.

A video recorded by eyewitnesses shows personnel from the Estate Managing Unit (EMU) catching dogs inside the residential campus. The footage shows three dogs with their limbs tied, trapped in a net and plastic sacks, and loaded into an open truck.

A screen grab from a video circulated by eyewitnesses, showing the illegal capture of the dogs. The footage shows three dogs with their limbs tied, trapped in a net and plastic sacks, before being loaded into an open truck.

Residents and activists said around 20 dogs have gone missing in the neighbourhood.

"The personnel on duty, who were garbage collectors, said they had received orders to catch dogs. This same group has caught dogs in a similar manner in the past," said Priya Chetty-Rajagopal, trustee of CJ Memorial Trust.

"This is not an isolated incident. This precisely explains why dogs have been missing in the neighbourhood." She added that the three dogs caught on Thursday were neutered and were causing no harm.

Following the incident, activists filed a complaint with the Greater Bengaluru Authority Chief Commissioner and Central Commissioner, seeking intervention and an inquiry into the alleged mistreatment of animals.

They have also written to former Union Minister Maneka Gandhi.

"We want to locate and rescue all the other dogs that have been dumped. We want the people involved in this brutal act to be punished," Priya said. "The authorities should ensure such an act is never repeated. People need to be held accountable."

The Animal Birth Control rules prohibit the arbitrary relocation or removal of stray dogs.

Dog shelters to be ready in one-two months

BENGALURU, DHNS: The five corporations in the city are preparing to implement the Supreme Court order to move all dogs from educational institutions, hospitals and other public places into shelter homes.

They have finished identifying land parcels and will soon complete constructing animal shelters to house close to 500 dogs in each corporation.

A 20-acre land parcel at Bingipura belonging to the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) will house dog shelters for both the Bengaluru South City Corporation (BSCC) and Bengaluru Central City Corporation (BCCC).

The Bengaluru West City Corporation (BWCC) has identified a two-acre plot within the premises of the Central Relief Committee (CRC) to build shelters.

The Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) will build shelters near Medihalli Agrahara, and the Bengaluru East City Corporation (BECC) has identified a plot near Basavanapura in KR Puram.

The corporations are hoping that they could finish the construction of these shelters within the next two months and begin moving the institutional dogs.

Though a survey by the corporations showed that there are thousands of such dogs under each corporation, the shelters now being constructed can house only about 500 dogs.

To make up for the shortfall, the corporations are planning to hold discussions with the institutions that have identified a large number of dogs and see if they can house them at their premises.

"Some institutions have a large number of dogs on their premises. The corporations can provide such institutions necessary support if they agree to put up shelters and house them," a senior GBA official said.

That apart, the corporations may also approach NGOs working in the sector to accommodate the dogs in their shelters. Many corporations are also urging animal lovers to come forward and adopt stray dogs.

In November 2025, the Supreme Court directed all the states to ensure that stray dogs in institutions and public places such as schools, colleges, hospitals, railway stations and bus shelters are shifted to shelters since these places see heavy footfall.

'Adoption not the only way to manage community dogs'

ABHINAYA M
BENGALURU, DHNS

The five city corporations should not merely depend on adoption to manage community dogs and to follow the Supreme Court orders, activists believe.

They also did not appreciate the strategy to approach NGOs to accommodate a few institutional dogs.

Samyuktha Hornad , an animal rights activists, pointed out that shelters set up by NGOs are full. "They face severe space and funding constraints," she said. Most function at full capacity and are not designed to house healthy community dogs in the long run."

Priya Chetty-Rajagopal, founder of CJ Memorial Trust, noted that street dog adoptions are not the same as routine pet adoption. Though Indie adoption is positive, she cautioned against using it to remove community dogs in the guise of rehabilitation.

Sujaya Jagadish, a member of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), who recently adopted 20 stray dogs, felt adoption is a constructive step to reduce street population while also discouraging illegal breeding.

Indie parents

Vikas Bafna, who volunteers with various NGOs, pointed out the lack of awareness about adoption. "There are many proud Indie parents today. These are community dogs, not animals to be dismissed," he said.

Samyuktha said Indian dogs are well suited to local conditions and require low maintenance. "The issue is awareness, not willingness," she added. "When people understand the value of Indies, they adopt them."

Experts feel collaboration among civic authorities, veterinarians, shelters and citizen groups is key for the success.

While adoption may provide relief to some animals, they believe scientifically managing the animals will depend on scientific implementation, infrastructure support, and responsible community participation.

IN THE CITY

GENERAL

Safe-A-Thon: Bengaluru Traffic Police and Namma Raste Surakshate; Ramalinga Reddy, Rizwan Arshad; Shalini Rajneesh, Sunil Joshi to attend; Kanteerava Stadium; 6 am.

International Waste Pickers' Day: Waste Workers' Union; HN Gopalakrishna, Ruth Manorama, SB Ravikumar to attend; Freedom Park; from 11 am.

Lecture: On 'Gangadharam Inscription' endowed by Dr Uppangala Ramabhatta Datta; Speaker CK Jagadeesh; BM Sri Pratishtana; NR Colony; 5 pm.

CULTURAL

Music concert: Vocal recital by Suryagayathri; Good Shepherd Auditorium; 5.30 pm.

Play: 'Ashwamedha Yaga or Veera Babruvahana'; Organised by Veeranjaneya Swamy Kripaposhita Nataka Mandali; Mutyalamma Temple, Doddatoguru Gram Panchayat; from 6 pm onwards.

Play: 'Taj Mahalina Tender'; Directed by Dakshayini Bhat A; Kalagrama, Mallathahalli; 7 pm.

CITY WEATHER

FORECAST
Mainly clear sky

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	34.0°C
Minimum	20.3°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	NA%
Sunset (Mar 7)	6:29 pm
Sunrise (Mar 8)	6:33 am
Moonrise	8:56 pm
Moonset	8:12 am

Namma Metro receives new train for Green Line

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru-based Titagarh Rail Systems Limited (TRSL) has finally delivered its first India-assembled train for the Green Line.

The six-coaches — dispatched on February 18 — arrived at the Peenya depot earlier this week. They were unloaded, formed into a train-set, and moved to the Inspection Bay Line (IBL), a senior BMRCL official told *DH*.

The Distance-To-Go (DTG) train will undergo static and electrical circuit testing, followed by 750 km of trial runs on the mainline during night time. TRSL is expected to dispatch a second DTG train later this month.

These two trains, along with the China-made prototype delivered in January 2025, will be inducted into the Purple and Green lines by May-June to ease peak-hour overcrowding, another senior BMRCL official said.

The BMRCL is in the process of receiving statutory clearances for the prototype.

The Purple and Green lines currently have 57 trains.

From April onwards, TRSL will supply the seven remaining trains for the Yellow Line before beginning to deliver 18 more trains for the Purple and Green lines.

Speed restriction

The BMRCL has imposed a temporary speed restriction on train operations between RV Road and Jayanagar to facilitate routine preventive maintenance. It is replacing support bearings in the area for the long-term safety and reliability of the metro corridor.

"As part of BMRCL's standard safety protocols, whenever any technical parameter requires closer observation, train speeds are temporarily regulated to ensure the highest levels of operational safety. While services on the Green Line continue to operate as per schedule, passengers may experience slightly increased travel time between RV Road and Jayanagar stations."

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Budget proposes to develop Mysuru as state's second IT hub

Over 30k employees working in 100 firms in Palace City

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

In order to ease pressure on Bengaluru's infrastructure and to decongest the city, the Karnataka government on Friday announced that Mysuru will be developed as the second IT city of the state.

Mysuru has been emerging as an alternative destination for IT and ITeS companies. The city has been witnessing steady growth, especially in the semiconductor and ESDM (Electronics System Design & Manufacturing) space.

"With the support extended to the IT sector, more than 30,000 employees are working in 100 companies in Mysuru," Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said while presenting the Budget. Industry leaders said that Mysuru will play a bigger role in the coming years, as already companies such as Kaynes Technology, an electronics manufacturing services (EMS) provider, have established their strong presence in the city. "Mysuru is long in the making, and is getting to the inflection point," Accel India Founding Partner Prashanth Prakash said. According to him, Mysuru can become a semiconductor and ESDM cluster. "Every sector has a strong presence in Bengaluru, and Mysuru is slowly emerging as a good semiconductor and ESDM hub," he said.

Mysuru has been emerging as an alternative destination for IT and ITeS companies and has been witnessing steady growth, especially in the semiconductor and Electronics System Design & Manufacturing space. DH FILE PHOTO

Siddaramaiah also said that Karnataka ranks among the leading states in the ESDM and semiconductor sectors. It is a matter of pride that major global companies like Foxconn, LAM Research, and Applied Materials have recently invested in the state. The state anticipates investments to the tune of Rs 45,000 crore from companies in this sector.

Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FKCCI) President Uma Reddy said the objective is to decongest Bengaluru, and Mysuru is going to get closer to Bengaluru in the process. "Mysuru is going to be just an extension of Bengaluru, and this is a very positive move," she said.

However, the government should have looked at allocating some funds for infrastructure upgradation in Bengaluru and its industrial parks, which are in a bad shape. If we want to grow further, it's also important that you provide infrastructure support to Bengaluru," she said.

The announcement of Mysuru as an IT hub is a long-overdue initiative. Mysuru already has a strong IT workforce, powered by the presence of companies like Infosys, Wipro and TCS, to name a few, said Kamal Karanth, Co-founder of Xpheno, a specialist staffing firm.

He said Mysuru has built a strong workforce, which complements the presence of world-class infrastructure. The desirability quotient of people to have a career-based out of their hometown has also driven a reverse migration of talent. Mysuru currently has an active experienced talent pool of 87,000, with more than a third engaged in Engineering & IT functions.

"Mysuru has also gained 2,000 professionals from other Indian cities as well as overseas over the years. The city has long been ready to emerge as the second tech hub of the state, and the announcement sets the ball rolling for the city," Karanth said.

He also added that Mysuru's current proximity to Bengaluru and the increased connectivity being established give it an edge over other tier 2 cities in Karnataka when it comes to tech talent mobility.

A new IT park in Mangaluru

Siddaramaiah announced that a new IT park will be established in Mangaluru to promote global capability centres (GCCs) by KEONICS. Over 550 GCCs are currently operating in the state, and the target is to establish 500 new GCCs in the state by 2029, which are expected to create employment for 3.5 lakh people and generate an economic output of $50 billion.

Karanth said Mangaluru has a strong, active talent pool of 50,000, with 23% of the talent pool engaged in Engineering & IT functions. Mangaluru has also, over the year gained 3,000 professionals moving in from other Indian cities as well as overseas.

"The talent pipeline, which is at a constant flow, boosted by quality education and last-mile connectivity - all these qualities can and will boost Mangaluru's position as a serious contender as a hub for GCCs," he added.

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Details of the advertisement and prescribed proforma and Annexure-I for application are available on the Ministry's website at **https://moefccrecruitment.nic.in/mrstaging.**

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CBC 13101/11/0025/2526

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Tender Notice for e-tendering is invited by Principal Chief Engineer, Metro Railway, Kolkata for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work: **Name of work:** Providing & fixing corrugated G.S. sheet along with necessary support structure below the girders to prevent water ingress from the junctions of two girders at Five stations of Blue line from Netaji (KNTJ) to Sahid Khudiram (KSKD) of Metro Railway, Kolkata. **Approx Cost of Work:** ₹ 1,22,24,883.86, **Earnest Money:** ₹ 2,11,100/-. **Completion Period:** 9 Months, **Date and Time of Closing:** 02.04.2026 at 12:00 hrs. The Tender Document and other details can be obtained from the website **www.ireps.gov.in.** Amendments/ Corrigendum,if any, would be hosted only on the website. **Abridged e-Tender Notice No.: Civil-2555-2026 (Open)**

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Metro Railway, Kolkata

Corrigendum

Corrigendum-1 of the earlier published Open Tender Notice No. S&T/Works/9-2026 is now e-published on IREPS website by Assistant Signal & Telecom Engineer/Sig for the work of "Rehabilitation and re-installation of various signalling gears like signals, point machines, cables, location boxes and allied works in KCWC to KDSW including KNCS in Blue line of Metro Railway, Kolkata under SSE/Sig/KNAP/IC". **Item modified under NIT Header : (Tender Closing Date & Time** should be read as **16.03.2026 at 15:00 hrs.** instead of 05.03.2026 at 15:00 hrs.)

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CORRIGENDUM -1 FOR TENDER NOTICE NO.: CON/2026/JAN/06 DATED. 31-01-2026

Corrigendum-1 for Tender Notice No. CON/2026/JAN/06, dated: 31-01-2026 against **Tender No. CE/CON/FT/EPC/2026/03** has been published. For details please visit in website **www.ireps.gov.in.**

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CBC 02107/13/0003/2526

Big push for MSMEs: 10 new clusters to be established at Rs 15 crore

2 new industrial estates to come up at Muddebihal, Kampli

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

To encourage MSMEs and also to create employment opportunities in the sector, 10 new clusters will be established at Rs 15 crore under MSE-CDP (Micro and Small Enterprises Cluster Development Programme) in FY27.

The Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FKCCI) said the enhanced focus on MSME development was a positive step as improved access to technology, credit and infrastructure will help small industries grow and generate employment.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said in his Budget speech that eight industrial estates have been established in different districts of the state by KSSIDC (Karnataka State Small Industries Development Corporation). In 2026-27, two new industrial estates will be established in Muddebihal, Vijayapura district and Kampli, Ballari district. "In the current year, 1,500 industrial plots will be allocated across 10 industrial estates," he said.

FKCCI said these will help promote industrial growth in districts and encourage industries to expand beyond Bengaluru.

B R Ganesh Rao, president, Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association (KASSIA), said Karnataka continued to maintain strong economic momentum with a GSDP growth of 8.1%, higher than national growth rate, and remains a leading destination for global investment, accounting for nearly 26.7% of India's FDI inflows during 2025–26. "This demonstrates the state's resilience and its growing importance as a hub for advanced manufacturing, technology, startups and innovation-driven industries," Rao said.

He said that while the Budget emphasises growth sectors and infrastructure, micro and small enterprises require stronger policy support, especially in areas such as access to affordable finance, technology upgradation, simplified compliance systems and faster payment mechanisms from large industries and government agencies. MSMEs remain the backbone of Karnataka's manufacturing sector and are critical for employment generation and inclusive economic development.

He stressed the need for greater incentives for cluster development, common facility centres and export promotion initiatives for small industries, which would help them integrate into global value chains.

Key announcements

- The government will allocate 100 acres in Mandya district to establish an advanced construction and infrastructure testing facility
- In the KIADB aerospace park, an aerospace common facility centre will be established with a project cost of Rs 30 crore
- A convention complex of global standards will be developed in the land owned by Mysore Lamp Works Limited, Malleswaram, on PPP mode.
- A 1,000-acre industrial park will be newly developed in Belagavi district of North Karnataka
- An aerospace park will be developed adjacent to the Mysuru airport by KIADB.
- Rs 30,000 crore of investments and 75,000 employment opportunities are expected in the Dharwad industrial node of the Bengaluru-Mumbai industrial corridor

Kids off social media; Mysuru to be IT hub

Siddu Budget, from Page 1

The government is expected to rely on borrowings. In 2026-27, Siddaramaiah wants to borrow Rs 1.32 lakh crore. For the fourth year in a row, Siddaramaiah has tabled a revenue-deficit Budget. The deficit for the new fiscal is pegged at Rs 22,957 crore. Fiscal deficit is projected to be Rs 97,449 crore. The state's total liabilities at the end of 2026-27 could be around Rs 8.24 lakh crore.

Siddaramaiah has argued that he is within fiscal discipline parameters. However, these numbers will make spending difficult unless resources are mobilised.

Meeting of contractors with CM soon, says DKS

'We must all find a solution to problems together'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi receive a memorandum from contractors at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Friday.
PHOTO BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Friday assured the Contractors' Association that he and Public Works Department Minister Satish Jarkiholi would facilitate a meeting with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to resolve their issues.

Addressing members of the Karnataka State Contractors' Association who were staging a protest at Freedom Park in the city on Friday, demanding the release of pending bills, Shivakumar said, "Minister Satish Jarkiholi and I will together arrange a meeting of contractors with the chief minister during this session. We must all come together to find a solution to your problems."

"Contractors are helping the state, too. We are aware that you brought our government to power. It is not our intention to withhold the payment. I have been watching your president, Manjunath, who gives different sets of statements to the media once every three months. You all should get him a seat in the Legislative Assembly or the Legislative Council."

"Just as representation is given in the Council to teachers, graduates, and those from the cinema and arts sectors, a seat must be given to contractors as well. That could help resolve your problems. A way must be found for this," he said.

"There are pending bills of around Rs 13,000 crore in my department, Rs 3,000 crore in Boseraju's department, totalling to about Rs 37,000 crore. We know your pain. Six months before the elections, I had warned you not to take up any contract work in departments where there is no money. Yediyurappa and Bommai kept awarding contracts whether or not there were funds. You took up that work and now you are suffering. This needs to be resolved. We need to find bonds worth around Rs 50,000 crore or some other way. Only then will this problem be solved," he said.

"Our government introduced the guarantee scheme to help people reeling under price rise, spending approximately Rs 52,000 crore annually on it. In spite of it, we are presenting a good budget for the state. Today, the chief minister presented a balanced budget," he said.

All-women police platoons hold special parade

BENGALURU, DHNS: Ahead of International Women's Day, the city police held a special 'Women's Monthly Parade' at the CAR Central Parade Ground on Friday.

During the parade, Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh received the guard of honour from contingents comprising only women officers and staff.

The parade was commanded by Mohammed Sujitha MS, Deputy Commissioner of Police, South-East Division, with Reena Suvarna, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Whitefield Sub-Division, as Assistant Parade Commander.

After the parade, the 'Rani Chennamma Squad', a special women's police team, performed a karate demonstration, showcasing self-defence techniques. The team broke tiles with their fists and smashed earthen pots placed eight feet high with powerful kicks, drawing applause from the audience.

As part of the 'Parihar' initiative, around 100 autos were provided to women auto drivers.

US gives 30-day waiver to India for Russian...

Waiver, From Page 1

The Office of Foreign Assets Control of the US Department of the Treasury authorised the delivery and sale of crude oil and petroleum products originating in Russia and loaded onto vessels for export to India as of March 5.

Trump had claimed on February 6 that he withdrew the punitive tariff as India committed to stop importing oil from Russia and took significant steps to align sufficiently with the US on national security, foreign policy and economic matters.

The US president had also warned that the punitive tariff might be imposed again if India restarted importing oil from Russia.

The Modi government has not commented on the US waiver. New Delhi had also refrained from confirming or denying the US president's claim that he had nudged it to stop energy imports from Russia.

Sources in New Delhi, however, said India took its own decision on who it would buy energy from. Russia remained one of India's top energy exporters, the sources added.

Terming India "an essential partner" of the US, Bessent wrote on X on Friday that Washington fully anticipated that New Delhi would ramp up purchases of oil from America.

Ramraj Cotton launches new outlet in Nagarabhavi

P B Rajagopal (second from left) with customers at the launch of the new showroom of Ramraj Cotton in Nagarabhavi.

Ramraj Cotton Clothing Company launched another outlet in Bengaluru on Muddinapalya Main Road, Nagarabhavi. The showroom, inaugurated by P B Rajagopal, former Deputy General Manager, Karnataka State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation, Bengaluru, has the signature apparel of the premium Ramraj Cotton.

Speaking at the event, K R Nagarajan, Founder and Chairman, Ramraj Cotton, said, "All products manufactured by us are made from soft cotton fabrics. They are designed by experts". The dhotis, shirts and vests of Ramraj Cotton are sold across the country.

The brand has carved a niche for itself in dhotis. The range in dhotis includes fancy border, stain resistant, perfumed, wrinkle-free, shubha muhurtha, embroidered, Mayilkan, panchakacham, silk and more. Ramraj Cotton is also known for their variety in shirts, including cotton, embroidered, wrinkle-free, shubha muhurtha, designer, silk, linen, border matching, white and more. T-shirts are also available here.

Rich in quality and tradition, the apparel of Ramraj Cotton make a statement in heritage. The company's motto is 'quality without compromise'. The loyalty of their customers is evident in the 25 per cent year-on-year growth the company has been posting. All products of Ramraj Cotton can be bought online too at www.ramrajcotton.in.

Curated by DH Brandspot

Rail Land Development Authority
(A Statutory Authority under Ministry of Railways, Government of India)
Unit No. 702-B, 7th Floor, Konnectus Tower-II, DMRC Building, Ajmeri Gate, New Delhi-110002

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL THROUGH E-TENDER
(RFP Notice No. RLDA/2026/RFP/CRD/21 of 2026 dt 06.02.2026)

"Grant of Lease of 14,950 sq.m (approx.) Railway Land for Residential & Commercial Development for a period of 99 years and License of 17,165 sq.m (approx.) area for Redevelopment of Railway Colony at Manglore near Manglore Central Railway Station in Palaghat Division of Southern Railway".

Site Description	Area to be Leased (sqm)	FAR	Reserve Price in terms of NPV	Redevelopment Cost	Revenue Share To RLDA
Manglore Central Railway Colony	14,950	3.68 (Base FAR: 2.3 & Premium FAR: 1.38)	Rs. 86.0 Cr	Rs. 52.86 Cr	Minimum 23.0% of Gross Revenue

Online & Offline Pre-Bid Meeting: 10th March, 2026 at 11:30 Hrs
(Online & Offline Pre-bid meeting details to be obtained from JGM/Project/Bangalore)
Last Date of Submission of E-bid Online: 14.04.2026 upto 15:00 Hrs

For Further details of the project, please visit our website https://rlda.indianrailways.gov.in or on e-procurement Portal https://www.tenderwizard.in/RLDA under the heading 'e-tender'
For any clarifications, may please contact: -

Chief Project Manager / Bangalore	Joint General Manager/ Project / Bangalore	Consultant: M/s CBRE	For e-bid queries:
M: 9741604203 pervesh02k@gmail.com	M: 9959187887 jgmpsbc@rlda.railnet.gov.in	(i) Ms. Prageeja K, M: 8050016272 prageeja.k@cbre.com (ii) Mr. Manohar L A, M: 8105619138 manohar.la@cbre.com	Mr. Suraj Singh M: 9599653865 suraj@etenderwizard.com

Note:- Any Corrigendum or Addendum will be published only on above mentioned websites. JGM/Tender/Expert (M) 9711305031

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
OPEN TENDER NOTICE NO. 04/SBC/26 of 26.02.2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the following works.

SN	Description of work	Approx. value
1	Bengaluru - Sampige road Section: Proposed construction of RUB (7.5x4.65m) and U shaped RCC retaining wall in lieu of LC No. 48 at Km 81/500-600 between Mallasandra (MLSA) and Gubbi (GBB) stations, under Assistant Divisional Engineer/Yesvantpur sub-division. Maintenance period is 12 months. (Two packet)	₹10,87,46,744
2	**Sub Work I :** Bengaluru - Salem : Supply, installation, commissioning and maintenance of track mounted Automatic Gauge face lubricators on 39 curves. for period of 5 years in Senior Section Engineer/P.Way/ Dharmapuri (N) section under Divisional Engineer/South/Bengaluru jurisdiction **Sub Work II** : Chikka Banavara - Hassan sec: Supply, installation, commissioning and maintenance of track mounted Automatic Gauge face lubricators on 29 curves in Senior Section Engineer/PWAY/ Hosur section and 01 curve in Senior Section Engineer/PWAY/ Channarayapatna section under Divisional Engineer/South/Bengaluru jurisdiction (Service tender) (2 packet)	₹8,55,14,060
3	Divisional Engineer/ South/Bengaluru sec: Construction of staff quarters Type II - 15 numbers, Type III - 15 numbers in Senior Section Engineer/ PWAY/Hosur section, including electrical portions. Maintenance period is 36 months.	₹9,18,01,141
4	KSR Bengaluru: Proposed construction of sports complex including electrical portion near MG Colony cricket ground at - KSR Bengaluru. Maintenance period is 36 months. (Composite tender)	₹9,18,15,193

Last Date for Submission of tenders: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 23.03.2026**
For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**
Senior Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination/ Bengaluru
PUB/969/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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South Western Railway - SWR | SWRLY | @SWRAILWAYHQ | @sw_railways

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

Divisional Railway Manager(Engg.)/ Chakradharpur acting for & on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders against Open Tender. **Sl. No.; Tender Notice No.; Name of work; Tender value & EMD** respectively : **(1); CKP-WEST-25-26-43;** Civil Engineering work in connection with provision of 06 Nos. lifts at Jharsuguda Station; ₹ 2,90,91,600.00; ₹ 2,95,500.00; **(2); CKP-CENTRAL-25-26-67;** Construction of 16 Units Type II Quarters along with Boundary wall at Bimalgarh(BUF) under the jurisdiction of DEN/Central/Chakradharpur; ₹ 3,85,97,267.04; ₹ 3,43,000.00; **(3); CKP-CENTRAL-25-26-066;** Supply, stacking & loading into any type of Railway Wagons of hard stone machine crushed track ballast of 50mm gauge for 70000 cum ballast depot at Bondamunda depot from any quarry, under jurisdiction of Chakradharpur Division; ₹ 12,65,96,400.00; ₹ 7,83,000.00; **Cost of Tender form** : 0.00 (for Sl. No. 1 to 3); **Date of opening** : 23/03/2026 (for Sl. No. 1), 31/03/2026 (for Sl. No. 2 & 3). The tender can be viewed at Website **http://www.ireps.gov.in.** The tenderer/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered under on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering. All relevant paper must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-tendering. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Note:-** e-Tender Forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenderers. (Authority - Rly. Bd.'s letter No.2020/CE-I/CT/3E/GCC/Policy dtd.16.07.2020) **(PR-1269)**

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking)
JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Road, Ranchi-834001, Jharkhand.
Ph No.: +91-651-2225878,
CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752, e-mail Id-juidcolimited@gmail.com

NIT No.: JUIDCO/NIT/Hinoo Chowk/RNC/686 Date- 06.03.2026
e-Procurement (Tender Notice)

1	Name of Work	Development of Roundabout of Hinoo Chowk Softscaped & Hardscaped work
2	Mode of Bid Submission	e-tendering (http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in)
3	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs. 3,16,49,546.00/- (Rupees Three Crore Sixteen Lakh Forty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Forty-Six) only.
4	Time of Completion	04 Months
5	Tender Fee and Bid Security to be submitted online	Tender document fee: Rs 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand) only. **Non-Refundable.** Bid Security: Rs 3,17,000.00/- (Rupees Three Lakhs Seventeen Thousand) only
6	Date/Time of Publication of Tender on Website	09.03.2026 at 15:00 Hrs.
7	Last Date/Time of Bid Submission	30.03.2026 at 17:00 Hrs.
8	Date/Time of opening of Bid	01.04.2026 at 17:00 Hrs.
9	Bid Submission Address	Jharkhand Urban Infrastructure Development Company Limited, JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi, Jharkhand- 834001
10	Helpline Number of e-procurement Cell	0651-2225878

Further details can be seen on website http://jharkhand tenders.gov.in
Sd/-
Project Director (Technical)
JUIDCO Ltd, Ranchi
PR.NO.374271 Urban Development and Housing(25-26):D

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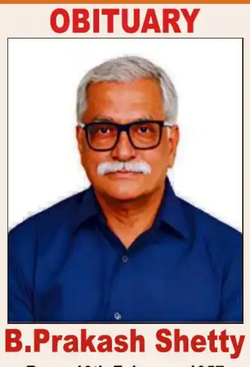
IN FOND REMEMBRANCE
18th Anniversary

Kamala S. Kulkarni
Born on 03-05-1962
Who left us on 07-03-2008

"Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near; still loved, still missed and very dear."

- Family Members

OBITUARY



B.Prakash Shetty
Born: 13th February 1957
Sadgati: 4th March 2026

We regret to inform that Sri B. Prakash Shetty, Founder of Techno Products & Chemicals and Deepthy Labs Pvt. Ltd. Bangalore gained a heavenly abode on 4th March 2026 in Bangalore. We pray for his noble soul to rest in peace.

Deeply mourned by

Devika Shetty, Deviprasad, Akshatha & Harshvardhan, family and friends.

Nitish's exit could have ...

Nitish, from Page 1

The OBC-upper caste combination is the mainstay of the BJP's political strength in many other states. The only difference is that, while in Bihar it has had to rely on an ally, the JD(U), to helm this coalition.

However, Kumar's political positioning, not just because of his stature, was unique. He belongs to the backward Kurmi caste, an intermediary social group traditionally associated with agriculture and allied trades. Kurmis constitute one of the largest OBC social groups in north, central, and western India.

In social scientist Rajni Kothari's seminal work, Caste in Indian Politics, there is a mention of Patel Yuvak Mandal of Gujarat organising a meeting of All India Kurmi Parishad in Ahmedabad in 1914, as Patels of Gujarat sought to bring together 'Marathas of Maharashtra, Vokkaligas of Mysore, Reddy's of Andhra, Naidus of Madras,' who the Mandal felt were 'all Patidars'.

Nitish, due to his long innings in Bihar and earlier at the Centre, acquired a national profile. And the BJP is well aware of the disruption his transfer to Delhi may engender in the state and outside.

The alliance with the BJP notwithstanding, JD(U) is a party that caters to a broad spectrum of historically underprivileged communities. In the absence of Nitish Kumar, will this social block remain coupled to the NDA and its allies? Will the social coalition hold good if the BJP were to have its chief minister in place of Nitish Kumar and relegate JD(U) as its minor partner in Bihar?

In less than 12 months from now, the impact of Nitish's transition would be tested in the adjoining Uttar Pradesh, which goes to the polls early next year.

K'taka's share in GDP rises to 9.19%; agri, industries now contribute less

Govt aims to drive growth in Kalyana K'taka, generate non-tax revenue

MUTHI-UR-RAHMAN SIDDIQUI
BENGALURU DHNS

Karnataka's share in India's GDP rose from 8.9% in 2024-25 to 9.19% in 2025-26 but agriculture and industries contributed less despite higher growth, the state's Economic Survey released on Friday said.

The GSDP grew to 32.81 lakh crore ($357.06 billion) at current prices in 2025-26, a 12.9% increase over 29.06%. At constant prices, it increased by 8.1% year-on-year, from Rs 15.94 lakh crore to 17.23 lakh crore. Karnataka's economic output grew faster than the national growth rate of 7.4% during the same period.

Per-capita income — a better metric of a state's wealth — rose by 12.2% year-on-year, from Rs 3.86 lakh crore to Rs 4.33 lakh crore. The national average is Rs 2.19 lakh.

Services contributed 69.87% to the economic output compared to 69.1%, despite growing slower year-on-year (8.1% vs 8.4%). Its share rose from 69.16% to 69.87%.

Industries also reported a higher growth (6.7% compared to 4.1%), but contributed only 19.36% against 19.82%.

While agriculture clocked a robust 9.1% growth compared to 7% last year due to an improved monsoon and good meat production, its share in economic output actually shrank from 11.02% to 10.77%.

Districts with stronger performance in the services and industrial sectors recorded higher growth in DDP, while those with a stronger agriculture sector fared poorly overall.

The state's total receipts are expected to rise year-on-year, from Rs 3.58 lakh crore to Rs 4.08 lakh crore. Its own tax revenue is estimated to rise from Rs 1.80 lakh crore to Rs 2.08 lakh crore. Revenue expenditure will rise from Rs 2.83 lakh crore to Rs 3.11 lakh crore due to increased spending on welfare programmes and obligatory payments.

Overall exports rose 13.78% year-on-year.

Karnataka has made some strides in diversifying its economy but continues to face challenges in boosting growth across the state.

Bengaluru Urban (Rs 11,73,574 crore, or 40.4%) continues to do the heavy lifting, followed by Dakshina Kannada at 5.3% and Belagavi at 3.9%. While Karnataka ranks third in per-capita income (after Delhi and Telangana), only five districts — Bengaluru Urban Rs 8.55 lakh, Dakshina Kannada Rs 6.26 lakh, Udupi Rs 6 lakh, Chikkamagaluru Rs 4.94 lakh and Shivamogga Rs 3.89 lakh — had a higher per capita income than the state average of Rs 3.86 lakh in 2024-25. Kalaburagi has the lowest per capita income at Rs 1.44 lakh.

The Kalaburagi division comprising seven districts recorded the lowest per capita income due to limited industrial and services activities. The survey highlighted the need to encourage private investments in the region.

The survey flagged slow progress in meeting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), noting that only 17% of targets are on track with just four years left until 2030.

The survey noted that while the fiscal deficit has not crossed 3% of GSDP, the medium-term fiscal risk is "for real" due to trends in outstanding liabilities, which could pressure the quality of expenditure in the coming years.

The survey noted that the state is in "dire need to look for alternative sources of income," as GST compensation has stopped and grants-in-aid have declined.

To address this, the government should increase non-tax revenue through the auction of new mines, resolving issues related to forest clearances and periodic tariff revisions for utilities, public transport and urban services.

Med graduate Anuj Agnihotri...

UPSC, from Page 1

It was his third attempt at the civil services examination.

While the government has identified 1,087 in IAS, IPS, IFS and Group A and B posts, the UPSC has chosen 958 after the three-tier exams — preliminary, mains and personality test.

Of the 958, the UPSC said 317 are from the general category, while 104 are from the economically backward sections (EWS), 306 are OBCs, 158 are SCs and 73 are STs.

According to the UPSC, the top 25 candidates comprise 11 women and 14 men.

The recommended candidates also include 42 Persons with Benchmark Disability. As many as 258 other candidates have been put on a reserve list.

Candidates can obtain any information/clarification regarding their examinations/recruitments on the working days between 10 AM to 5 PM in person or over telephone numbers 011-23385271/23381125/2309854.

Belagavi's Kiran, Sandeep of Yadgir shine in UPSC exam results

BENGALURU, DHNS

Kiran Kamate, Sandeep Badada, Krupa Jain and A Madhu

Two engineers of the state secured all-India ranks (AIR) within the Top 100 in the Civil Services Examination 2025 results announced by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on Friday.

Kiran Kamate (29) of Hattaraavata village in Chikkodi taluk of Belagavi district, secured 53rd rank and emerged as the state topper.

Kiran completed his civil engineering degree from Gogte Institute of Technology, Belagavi, and is currently working as an assistant Engineer in the Public Works Department (PWD) in Bengaluru. Though he cleared the preliminary examination five times earlier, he failed to clear the mains. He finally succeeded in his sixth attempt.

He completed his high school education at KLE English Medium School in Gadag and his PU education at G I Bagewadi College in Nippani. His father, Sannappa Kamate, is the principal of Hira Sugars Institute of Technology in Nidasosi, while his mother Rukmini is a homemaker.

"In 2023, I joined work. While working, I studied five hours daily. I expected to secure a rank within 250, but getting 53rd rank has made me very happy. With the support of my parents and wife, I could achieve this," Kiran Kamate said.

Sandeep Badada, a resident of Gandhi Nagar in Yadgir, secured 82nd rank and became the second topper of the state.

Sandeep Badada, the son of a grocery shop owner, completed his engineering degree from Dr Ambedkar Institute of Technology in Bengaluru. He worked in a software company for three years before quitting his job to prepare for competitive examinations in Delhi. He cleared the Civil Services Examination in his sixth attempt and emerged as the state's second topper.

This year, more than 25 candidates from the state cleared the Civil Services Examination.

Among others, Krupa Abhay Jain from Hubballi secured 190th rank without taking any coaching. It was her fifth attempt.

She studied II PU at KLE Prerana College in Hubballi in 2016, securing 97.83% (587 marks) and was the district topper in Dharwad. Later, she completed Computer Science Engineering from RV College of Engineering, Bengaluru, in 2020 and got a job at Cisco.

A Madhu from Kolar has secured 436th rank. "Last time I secured 540th rank. In my sixth attempt, I secured 436th rank. After the marks are announced, there will be clarity about which service I may get. If I get IAS, I will not write again," he said.

Govt proposes to spend Rs 43K cr in five yrs to address regional imbalance

SUJAY B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government has decided to spend Rs 43,000 crore in five years to redress regional imbalances in the state as per the recommendations of the Prof M Govinda Rao committee report.

Tabling his record 17th Budget on Friday, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah noted that the committee had considered the deficit in resource base, economic infrastructure and social infrastructure to divide taluks in the state into four quartiles of 'most backward,' 'more backward,' 'less developed' and 'developed' taluks. Each of these quartiles have 59 taluks each.

The Govinda Rao report is the successor to the Nanjundappa Committee report, submitted in 2002, which had identified 114 'backward' taluks (39 'most backward', 40 'more backward' and 35 'backward' taluks).

"The recommendations of the committee have been accepted in-principle and our government is committed to implement them in a phased manner from 2026-27. During the current year Rs 4,291 crore have been reserved for this purpose," he added.

Siddaramaiah explained that the government was "committed" to the overall development of Kalyana Karnataka, adding that Rs 13,000 crore had been allocated for the development of the region since the Congress came to power in 2023. He explained that an action plan of Rs 5,000 crore would be formulated and implemented for the current year too.

"With a mission of increasing the share of Kalyana Karnataka towards the GSDP, policies will be formulated in various sectors and implemented. For this purpose, a separate planning, policy and data analysis wing will be established," the chief minister added.

He noted that a knowledge park will be established in Jewargi of Kalaburagi district under the grants by the Kalyana Karnataka Regional Development Board (KKRDB). Incidentally, Jewargi is represented by KKRDB chairman Dr Ajay Dharam Singh.

Kempegowda INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BENGALURU

Name and Address of the entity seeking Proposal:
BANGALORE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LIMITED
Administration Block,
Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru - 560 300
Web: www.bengaluruairport.com

NOTICE TO EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

S.No.	Tender Title	Short description of Scope of Work
1	EOI for Business Park 02 Block 1-BIAL Corporate Office Interior Fit Out Works at 5th & 6th Floor	**Brief Scope of Work: Execution & Handover** • Civil & Interior works • MEPF • LMS, UPS, BMS, IT - Passive & Security system • Biophilia & Landscape • Modular workstations & Loose furniture supply • Branding, Graphics & wayfinding signages • Testing, commissioning, snag rectification • As-built drawings and final handover.

Pre Qualification Criteria & other Information: Available on BIAL website (Tenders (bengaluruairport.com)). Reference No: **BIAL/EOI/BP2-3698**
Submission Due Date & Time for all the above: **27th March 2026**
Note: Any further Addendums to this EOI shall be made available in BIAL website.
Applicants who are interested with **experience** in **corporate** and proven turnkey project delivery capability may apply shall express their interest through Email: **ramesh.hegde@bialairport.com** or register and login to BIAL E-Tendring website **(https://www.bialtenders.com) Event ID: 3698**
Name and address of the entity seeking RFP:
Head – Procurement & Contracts
Mr. Anil Kumar Patil
Bangalore International Airport Limited
Alpha 3A, Kempegowda International Airport,
Devanahalli, Bengaluru - 560 300
Email for communication: **ramesh.hegde@bialairport.com**
Phone No: 080 – 6678 2203 / 9538882203
www.bengaluruairport.com

Public Works Department
Chikkaballapur Division, Chikkaballapur

I.F.T No.21/2025-26 Date: 04.03.2026

(For Road/bridges/buildings–Improvements/ Construction/maint–As per SBD KW 1&4 in Two Tender Document System (Two Cover)

On behalf of The Governor of Karnataka, as per KPPP Act 2000, the undersigned invite tenders for works in two cover system through KPP Portal from eligible contractors registered in PWD. Those interested in participating in the tender can submit the tenders **from Date: 04.03.2026 to 11.03.2026 & Date: 05.03.2026 to 12.03.2026up to 04:00 pm**. Further details may be obtained from the above office during hours on works days or from websites: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- EE, PWD Division, Chikkaballapur.
DIPR/CHIKKABALLAPUR/R.O.NO:476/KSMCA/2025-26

Office of the Commissioner
Ballari City Corporation, Ballari.
Gadigi Chennappa Circle(Royal Circle) Ballari-583101
Landline No : 08392-273479 /278168
Website : www.ballaricity.mrc.gov.in
E-mail ID: ka.ballari.cc@gmail.com
No:CCB/ENG/AMRUTH 2.0/ /2025-26 Date:24.02.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER NOTIFICATION-Call-3 (Through KPP portal Only)

Tenders Are Inivited Under 2025-26 Amrut Scheme 2.0 In Ballari City Corporation Limits Through KPP Portal, http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in As Per KW-3 & 4 Standared Document Registered / Renewed/ In The PWD Department From The Eligible Contractors For The Following Works 1) DMA/2025-26/OW/Work_Indent 49795/Call-3-Rs.167.95 Lakhs, 2) DMA/2025-26/OW/Work_Indent 49792/Call-3-Rs.62.81 Lakhs, 3) DMA/2025-26 / OW/Work_Indent 49788/Call-3-Rs.94.37 Lakhs & 4) DMA/2025-26/OW/Work_Indent 49790/Call-3-Rs.52.36 Lakhs, Last Date Of Submission Of Tender On 20.03.2026 At 17.30 Hours, Opening Of Technical Bid On 23.03.2026 At 10.30 Hours, Technically Qualified Bidders Financial Bid Opened On 25.03.2026 At 11.00 Hours. Transaction Fee & EMD Should Be Remitted In KPP Portal, http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. For Further Details Contact This Office During Working Days.

Sd/- Commissioner, Ballari City Corporation. Ballari.
DIPR/Ballari/1093/KSMCA/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Hassan Division, Hassan.
No: EE/PWD/HSN/AE-3/2025-26/ DATED: 02.03.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 42/2025-26, Dated: 02.03.2026

Tender is invited by the Public Works Department on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000, Standard Tender Document KW-1, KW-2 & KW-4 from the eligible registered Contractors of Karnataka PWD and the contractors belonging to Scheduled caste & Category-2(A) shall be domicile of the State of Karnataka for more than 10 years. Tenders Invited through E-Procurement for total Number of 05 Works under PWD Hassan Division. In that 01 work is reserved for scheduled caste contractors and 01 work is reserved for category-2(A) contractors. The minimum estimated amount is Rs.15.00 Lakhs and maximum estimated amount is Rs.240.00 Lakhs. The amount mentioned in tender notification is sanctioned estimated cost, but EMD & class of contractor is considered based on amount put to tender which excludes GST & other charges. Last date & time for receipt of tender is on 12.03.2026 @ 16.00 hours. For more details visit https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or contact this office through Phone No. 08172-268437 or in person during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD, Hassan Division, Hassan.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನ/ಹಾಸನ/1142/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

Government of Karnataka - National Health Mission
District Health and Family Welfare Society (R), District Health and Family Welfare Officer's Office Premises, Shivamogga
Phone: 08182-200337 e-mail: rchoshimoga@gmail.com
No.:N.H.M./DHS/O.S./02/2025-26 Date: 03.03.2026

e-Tender Notice

e-Procurement Tender as below is invited related to availing services through outsource under N.H.M. Scheme in the limits of District Health and Family Welfare Society of Shivamogga District.

Sl. No. 1. Details: To avail services of 14 vehicles for R.B.S.K. Programme and 8 vehicles to the division of implementing officers under N.H.M. Scheme for the year 2026-27 **Tender Amount (Rs. In Lakhs)** Rs.95.40 **E.M.D. (Rs. In Lakhs):** Rs.2.39
Commencement date for uploading Tender Form and last date and time, place, date and time of opening Technical Bid, place, date and time of opening Financial Bid are all available online (as on e-p0rtal). Tender Terms and Conditions, Tender Document/Date are available online. Further details can be obtained and checked through website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in and contact office of District Health and Family Welfare Officer, Shivamogga District on Phone no.: 08182-200337 during office hours.

Sd/- Member Secretary, District Health Association and District R.C.H. Officer, Shivamogga
DIPR/smg/No.ksmca/25-26/33/03/1958

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME
STATION HQ (ECHS CELL) BELAGAVI
Phone No.: 94838 89065, Email: echsstationhqbelgaum@gmail.com

ADDENDUM

1. Reference to Station Headquarter Belagavi advertisement published in the News Paper Deccan Herald (English), Vijayavani (Kannada) and Tarun Bharat (Marathi) dated **26 Feb 2026** for the selection of contractual staff for ECHS Polyclinic **Belagavi, Bijapur, Dharwad, Gulbarga** and **Bagalkot** being conducted from **07 Apr 2026 to 13 Apr 2026**
2. Written exam will also be conducted for the under mentioned categories :-

Ser No	Post
2.1	Officer-in-Charge (OIC)
2.2	Dental Officer
2.3	Physiotherapist
2.4	Radiographer
2.5	Nursing Assistant
2.6	Pharmacist
2.7	Lab Technician
2.8	Lab Assistant
2.9	Dental Hygienist
2.10	Clerk
2.11	Driver

3. Written exam for above mentioned categories will be conducted from **0800hrs** to **0900hrs** prior to the interview on the same day. Candidates will also be informed through SMS.
4. Rest no changes.

Station : Belagavi
Date : 06 Mar 2026

(Sd/x-x-x-x)
Lt Col
OIC ECHS Cell
For Station Cdr

ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ. ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 0836–2747944
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ ಐಡಿ: eepwddha@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಾನಿಇಂಧಾ/ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ/ಪಿ.ಬಿ.2/2025–26/6922 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05–03–2026

ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಐಎಫ್‌ಟಿ – ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–1 ಮತ್ತು 4) (ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ರವರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. 2000 ರನ್ವಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–1 ಮತ್ತು 4 ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ **ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ:– 2059–80–053–4–00–200 ವಿವಿಧ ಇಲಾಖಾ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ದುರಸ್ತಿ / ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಹಾಗೂ 4059–80–051–0–60–422 SCP (ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಯವರ ಮೂಲ ಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ) ಯೋಜನೆ** ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿದೆ.

GENERAL: 1) PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT31562, 2) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT34112, 3) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT34105. ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡ (ಎಸ್.ಟಿ): 4) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT34102, CAT-II(A): 5) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 34104, ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ (ಎಸ್.ಸಿ): 6) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT34103

ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿ: 1) ಪ್ರೀ–ಬಿಡ್ / ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಯನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **13–03–2026 ರಂದು ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 12.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. 2)** ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **16–03–2026 ರಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. 3)** ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **17–03–2026 ರಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ. 4)** ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **18–03–2026 ರಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ.**

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಅಂತರ್‌ಜಾಲ ವಿಳಾಸ: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ,
ಧಾರವಾಡ.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಧಾರವಾಡ/1318/ಆಡ್ಮಿರ್ /2025–26

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Ramamurthynagar Division, N.R.I. Layout Main Road,
(Near Indira Canteen), Kalkere, Bengaluru-560016.
No.EE/RMN/BECC/TEND/04/2025-26 Date: 06-03-2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDERS (Two Cover System)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)
The Executive Engineer, Ramamurthynagar Division invites Item Rate tenders from eligible tenderers for the work details in the table given below. The Tenderers shall be registered in BBMP/CPWD/KPWD /Railways/ MES / any State or Central Govt. organization.

Sl No.	Name of the Work
1.	Improvement to roads & drains at Lake View Garden Layout K. Channasandra and Surrounding area cross roads in Kalkere Ward No-88. **Est. Cost: ₹ 50.00 Lakhs, EMD : ₹ 1,00,000.00**
2.	Improvement to roads & drains at K.Channasandra village, Lake view garden and Surrounding area cross roads in Kalkere Ward No-88. **Est. Cost: ₹ 25.00 Lakhs, EMD : ₹ 50,000.00**

Calendar of Events : (1) Availability of Tender documents from **09-03-2026** (2) Pre-Bid Meeting on **13-03-2026** at **3:00** pm. (3) Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders is **17-03-2026** upto **4:00** pm. (4) Date & Time for Opening Technical bid **18-03-2026** at **4:30** pm. (5) Date & Time for Opening Financial bid Will be intimated after obtaining approval for Technical Evaluation.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Ramamurthynagar Division
Zone-2, BECC

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.:CEE/Tr(Op)ZM/SEE(O)/AEE-4/25-26/10301 Date:04.03.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Poratl only)

KPTCL invites bids against below mentioned bid enquiry no. for the following work.
Bid Enquiry No. **KPTCL/CEE/TZM/SEE(O)/AEE-4/2025-26/868/Call-2 Date:03.03.2026 for** Refilling, painting, stickering & pressure testing of various types of fire extinguishers of various capacities at varuious sub-stations of Operations Division, Hootagalli coming under Transmission (Operations) Zone, Mysuru".
The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The detailed notification regarding subject enquiry in the E-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" OR **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 05.03.2026.** Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Ele.), Transmission(Operations) Zone, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavana, FTS Compound, N.R. Mohalla, Mysuru - 570 007.

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EMI ₹2,333

FREE: FAMILY HOLIDAY PACKAGE WORTH ₹5,000*

BLUE STAR
1.0 TON 3STAR INVERTER SPLIT AIR CONDITIONER

EMI ₹2,666

FREE: FAMILY HOLIDAY PACKAGE WORTH ₹5,000*

VOLTAS
1.0 TON 5 STAR INVERTER SPLIT AIR CONDITIONER

EMI ₹2,916

FREE: FAMILY HOLIDAY PACKAGE WORTH ₹5,000*

Panasonic
1.0 TON 5 STAR INVERTER SPLIT AIR CONDITIONER

EMI ₹2,999

FREE: FAMILY HOLIDAY PACKAGE WORTH ₹5,000*

GENERAL
1.5TON 3STAR INVERTER SPLIT AIR CONDITIONER

EMI ₹4,499

FREE: FAMILY HOLIDAY PACKAGE WORTH ₹5,000*

LG
1.5TON 3 STAR INVERTER SPLIT AIR CONDITIONER

EMI ₹3,333

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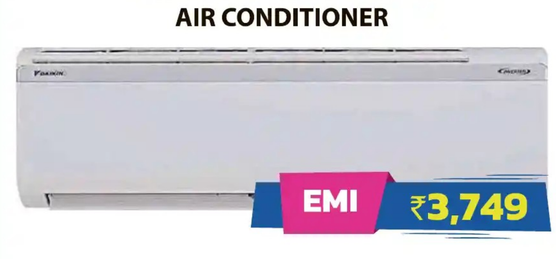
DAIKIN AIR CONDITIONERS
1.5 TON 5STAR INVERTER SPLIT AIR CONDITIONER



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653 L CONVERTIBLE 5IN1 SIDE BY SIDE REFRIGERATOR RS76CG8103S9HL

EMI ₹4,990

Haier
596L GRAPHITE BLACK FINISH SIDE BY SIDE REFRIGERATOR

EMI ₹2,994

FREE: PREETHI MIXER GRINDER WORTH ₹4,245*

BOSCH
334 LTR FROST FREE REFRIGERATOR

EMI ₹3,791

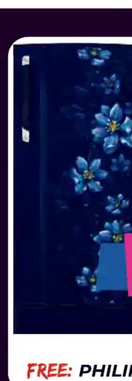
FREE: BUTTERFLY PRESSURE COOKER WORTH ₹3,315*

Whirlpool
411 LTR FROST FREE REFRIGERATOR

EMI ₹3,749

FREE: PREETHI INDUCTION COOKTOP WORTH ₹4,470*

Godrej
180 LTRS DIRECT COOL SINGLE DOOR REFRIGERATOR



EMI ₹1,733

FREE: PHILIPS TOASTER WORTH ₹1,895*

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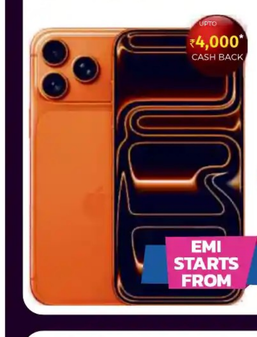
17 /17 PRO / 17 PRO MAX



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Lenovo SLIM 3

- 13TH GEN i5
- 16 GB, 1 TB SSD
- 15.6 FHD
- WIN 11 MSO 24

EMI ₹5,666 OFFER PRICE ₹67,990

FREE: NAUTICA 25LTR TRAVEL BAG + COMPANY BAG PACK WORTH ₹6,999

hp 15

- CORE 5
- 16GB, 512 GB SSD
- 15.6 FHD
- WIN 11 MSO 24

EMI ₹5,416 OFFER PRICE ₹64,990

FREE: NAUTICA 25LTR TRAVEL BAG + COMPANY BAG PACK WORTH ₹6,999

LG
75 INCH ULTRA HD (4K) SMART LED TV 75NANO83A6A

EMI ₹6,999

FREE: FIRE-BOLTT SMART CALLING WATCH WORTH ₹20000

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EMI ₹6,990

SONY
55 4K ULTRA HD SMART LED TV K-55S25M2

EMI ₹5,500

IFB
8KG FRONT LOAD WASHING MACHINE

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FREE: PREETHI INDUCTION COOKTOP WORTH ₹4,470*

Godrej
7 KG FULLY AUTOMATIC TOP LOAD WASHING MACHINE

EMI ₹1,833

FREE: PHILIPS TOASTER WORTH ₹1,895*

Panasonic
27 LTRS CONVECTION MICROWAVE OVEN

EMI ₹1,441

LG
SOUNDBAR S40T 2.1 CH, 300W, AI SOUND PRO, DOLBY DIGITAL

OFFER PRICE ₹ 12,390

EMI ₹1,033

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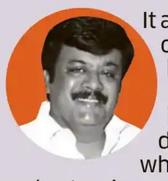
Centre's failure to fully compensate for GST revenue loss, non-devolution of cesses and surcharges, and lower tax devolution recommended by the 15th Finance Commission have compounded the state's fiscal challenges.

Voices



It appears that the CM read out the budget he presented last year. There were a lot of repetitions. For instance, grant provided for development of ward roads, white-topping, arterial roads and outer ring road were also mentioned last year. The government had announced Rs 7,000 crore last year but only Rs 3,000 crore was released

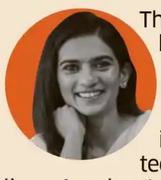
PADMANABH REDDY
ex-BJP councillor

The Rs 7,000 crore allocation for B'luru shows intent, but it must balance essential needs against non-urgent projects. While Metro expansion and Cauvery 6th Phase are vital, the Rs 40,000 crore tunnel road and Rs 3,000 crore white-topping raise fiscal and transparency concerns. We welcome pedestrian-focused upgrades.

SRIKANTH NARASIMHAN
Founder of Bengaluru Navanirmana Party

Budget Highlights

1. Rs 64 crore to set up two cold storage facilities at Honnali, Davangere and Toravi, Vijayapura
2. Silk Parks to be established in Ramanagara, Shidlaghatta, Haveri, Tandavapura and Kalaburagi
3. Centre of Excellence to be established at Mangalore Fisheries College to promote biotechnology-based industries, development of new technology and mariculture
4. Victoria Hospital in Bengaluru to be renamed as Shantaveri Gopalagowda Hospital
5. 1,000 'Smaraka Mitras' to be identified, trained and accredited by the Tourism Department to protect monuments



The plan to restrict social media use for kids under 16 brings attention to a very real concern about how digital platforms shape young minds. While protecting kids from excessive exposure is important, we must also recognise that technology is already a part of their daily lives. As educators, our role is not only to set boundaries but also help learners build digital responsibility, critical thinking & healthy technology habits.

Dr TRISTHA RAMAMURTHY
Founder, Ekya Schools, Provost CMR University:

Budget banks on loans, bonds for B'luru infra push

Based on borrowings
Rs 3k cr allocated to GBA will go to clear bills of civic works

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Budget includes several infrastructure projects announced for Bengaluru.

But, a key takeaway of the budget is the increasing reliance on external funding and loans, including 'municipal bonds' to execute major projects.

Documents show that the budget has allocated Rs 3,000 crore to the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA). The amount, which is provided every year, will primarily be used to clear pending bills of ongoing civic works.

A majority of large projects will depend on external sources of funding. It also means the repayment burden will directly fall on citizens through user charges or toll fees.

The two large traffic decongestion projects such as tunnel roads costing Rs 40,000 crore and the 73-km Bengaluru Business Corridor (BBC) – which were mentioned in the budget – will mostly be funded using external resources, including loans.

The government has allocated Rs 500 crore for preliminary works pertaining to the BBC project continuing the support provided in the previous financial year.

What's more, the government for the first time has authorised five city corporations of Bengaluru to mobilise resources by issuing municipal bonds based on their balance sheets.

This move signals the possibility of revenue constraints in the newly-carved corporations and the government's inability to directly fund projects.

On the water front, the government has announced the Cauvery phase VI project, which is estimated to cost Rs 6,939 crore. The project, aimed at meeting the drinking water needs of around 1.4 crore residents, will be taken up with financial assistance from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Siddaramaiah also spoke about the development and upgradation works of stormwater drains, costing Rs 2,000 crore.

The project is taken up under the World Bank-assisted water security and disaster resilience programme. The Budget has proposed a nine-km pedestrian walkway along the Metro viaduct on the Outer Ring Road, estimated to cost Rs 160 crore.

The CM said the project will be sponsored by the Outer Ring Road Companies Association.

One project that does not depend on external borrowing is a tunnel road and elevated corridor between Hebbal Junction and Mekhri Circle.

The project, costing Rs 2,250 crore, will be fully funded by Bangalore Development Authority. Overall, the Budget has allocated Rs 6,964 crore for Bengaluru projects, slightly lower than Rs 7,294 crore allocated the previous year.

Apart from the Rs 3,000 crore grant for GBA, the Budget also set aside Rs 654 crore for debt repayment by BWSSB, Rs 2,110 crore for Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited, among others.

Rs 2,110 cr for metro: CM says state bore 88% of overall cost so far

Fast commute BMRCL yet to get Rs 509.9 crore for double-decker

MUTHI-UR-RAHMAN SIDDIQUI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The state budget has allocated Rs 2,110 crore for Namma Metro in 2025-26, a tad lower than year's Rs 2,190 crore, according to a *DH* review of budget documents.

The allocation includes Rs 1,000 crore in interest-free subordinate debt for loan repayments, Rs 500 crore in equity investment for Phase 3, Rs 500 crore in loans, Rs 100 crore as reimbursement for taxes and duties, and Rs 10 crore for cash loss.

BMRCL sources told *DH* that the allocation was sufficient but noted they had also expected Rs 509.9 crore for the double-decker project under Phase 2.

The erstwhile BBM) had to pay for the road component of the double-decker, which runs from Ragigudda to HSR Layout via Silk Board Junction. The work has been completed, and the HSR Layout ramps are expected to open in the coming weeks.

The 2026-27 Union Budget allocated Rs 3,124.62 crore to BMRCL as loans from five external agencies (ADB, AIIB, EIB, JICA and KfW). While the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has released its own contribution, the BMRCL is expected to receive Rs 500 crore in equity investment for Phase 3, as well as funds for Phases 2, 2A and 2B.

The budget speech highlighted that Karnataka had incurred 88% of the total expenditure on Namma Metro so far, while Centre has contributed only 12%. Stating that the total expenditure on the metro system since its inception is Rs 67,460 crore, he highlighted that the state's share was Rs 59,376 crore and the Centre's share was only Rs 8,084 crore. "The central share accounts for only 12% against the 88% state share," he added.

Siddaramaiah announced that Bengaluru would add 41 km to its metro network by end of 2026.

Suburban rail

The state has allocated Rs 500 for the Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project (BSRP), including Rs 250 crore each as equity and support for loan repayment.

The Union Budget also allocated Rs 500 crore to the project.

Budget proposes to develop Mysuru as state's second IT hub

Next silicon city Over 30k employees working in 100 companies in the city

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

In order to ease pressure on Bengaluru's infrastructure and to decongest the city, the Karnataka government on Friday announced that Mysuru will be developed as the second IT city of the state.

Mysuru has been emerging as an alternative destination for IT and ITeS companies. The city has been witnessing steady growth, especially in the semiconductor and ESDM (Electronics System Design & Manufacturing) space.

"With the support extended to the IT sector, more than 30,000 employees are working in 100 companies in Mysuru," Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said while presenting the Budget.

Industry leaders said that Mysuru will play a bigger role in the coming years, as already companies such as Kaynes Technology, an electronics manufacturing services (EMS) provider, have established their strong presence in the city. "Mysuru is long in the making, and is getting to the inflection point," Accel India Founding Partner Prashanth Prakash said.

According to him, Mysuru can become a semiconductor and ESDM cluster. "Every sector has a strong presence in Bengaluru, and Mysuru is slowly emerging as a good semiconductor and ESDM hub," he said.

Siddaramaiah also said that Karnataka ranks among the leading states in the ESDM and semiconductor sectors. It is a matter of pride that major global companies like Foxconn, LAM Research, and Applied Materials have recently invested in the state. The state anticipates investments to the tune of Rs 45,000 crore from companies in this sector.

Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FKCCI) President Uma Reddy said the objective is to decongest Bengaluru, and Mysuru is going to get closer to Bengaluru in the process. "Mysuru is going to be just an extension of Bengaluru, and this is a very positive move," she said.

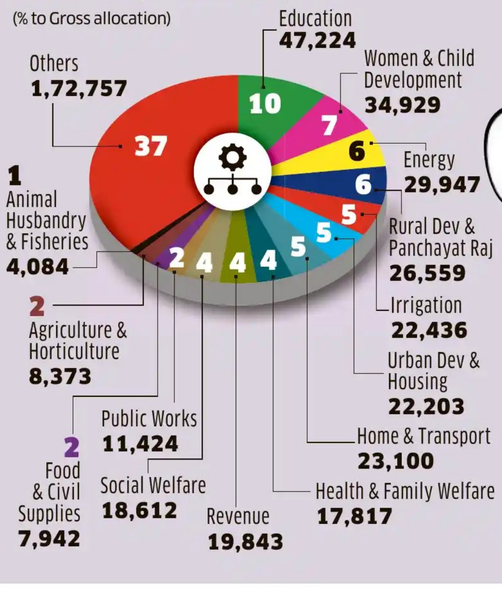
However, the government should have looked at allocating some funds for infrastructure upgradation in Bengaluru and its industrial parks, which are in a bad shape. If we want to grow further, it's also important that you provide infrastructure support to Bengaluru," she said.

The announcement of Mysuru as an IT hub is a long-overdue initiative. Mysuru already has a strong IT workforce, powered by the presence of firms like Infosys, Wipro and TCS, to name a few, said Kamal Karanth, Co-founder of Xpheno, a specialist staffing firm.

Earnings & spendings

Major contributors to kitty and how much each sector gets out ofthe total revenue

Gross allocation (Total demand) 2026-27 (Rs in crore)



Break-up of State's own tax revenue 2026-27 (Rs in crore)

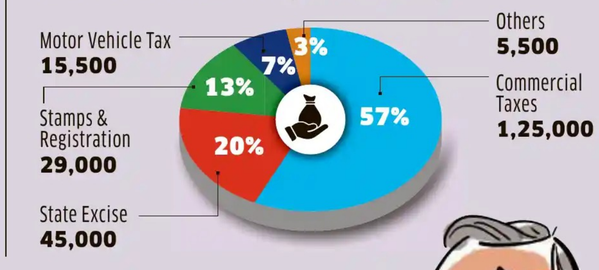


ILLUSTRATION: SAJITH KUMAR

More white-topped roads on the way for Bengaluru

City infrastructure
CM said 158 km of roads already refurbished in capital

BENGALURU, DHNS

In the next three years, Bengaluru may see more roads getting white-topped. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday announced that the state government would approve 450 km of roads for white-topping in a bid to provide long-term durable roads. He said the new project will cost roughly about Rs 3,000 crore.

In his budget speech, the CM did not specify how the project would be funded. He, however, mentioned that the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has already undertaken 158 km of road, at a total cost of Rs 1,700 crore, for white-topping. The project is currently under construction. On top of that, the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) had completed white-topping works on a total length of about 100 km.

The budget also outlined the GBA's various initiatives such as development of arterial and sub-arterial roads at a total cost of Rs 1,936 crore, asphalting ward roads at a total cost of Rs 1,255 crore and the improvement of outer ring road costing Rs 450 crore. These works are under different stages of implementation.

The government also appears keen on reviving the Intermediate Ring Road (IRR) project at least between the Nelamangala–Tavarekere–Bidadi. The project will be taken up using financial resources of Bangalore Metropolitan Region Development Authority (BMRDA) and local planning authorities, the CM said.

Chief minister's dole for MLAs

In a bid to placate MLAs, especially those from the governing Congress, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has announced that constituency-level works worth Rs 4,000 crore will be taken up. This will be the second phase of the CM's Infrastructure Development Programme (CMIDP). In 2025-26, works worth Rs 8,600 crore were taken up under CMIDP.

Digital platform for Bengaluru traffic management

Vigil on vices Under 'Operation Parishuddhikarana', sophisticated equipment will be provided at Rs 20 cr to prevent illegal use of mobile devices, consumption of ganja & other prohibited items

PRAJWAL D'SOUZA
BENGALURU, DHNS

A digital platform for effective management of traffic congestion in the city is among the key announcements by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah as he presented his record 17th Budget on Friday.

"With a view to effectively managing traffic congestion in the growing city of Bengaluru, an integrated digital platform will be developed at a cost of Rs 25 crore by collecting and analysing data managed separately by various traffic management agencies to facilitate a smooth traffic system," Siddaramaiah said in the budget speech.

Siddaramaiah said that under 'Operation Parishuddhikarana', sophisticated security equipment, including an Artificial Intrusion Detection System, CCTV, and body-worn cameras, will be provided at Rs 20 crore to prevent the illegal use of mobile devices, the consumption of ganja and other prohibited items, and other illegal activities in all state prisons.

8,000 posts to be filled

"A permanent Police and Police Auxiliary Services Recruitment Board will be established to do recruitment systematically, transparently and regularly in the Home Department. During the current year, 8,000 various vacant posts in the Home Department will be filled through direct recruitment."

"During the last three years, 5,911 vacancies in the Police Department have been filled through direct recruitment. A drug de-addiction centre will be established in the Bengaluru Central Prison. The Anti-Narcotics Task Force unit will be strengthened at a cost of Rs 10 crore, with a mission of Zero Tolerance to Drugs and to make Karnataka a drug-free State."

Siddaramaiah said.

Urban Policing Innovation Centre

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has announced the establishment of an Urban Policing Innovation Centre.

"It will be established to solve the challenges of policing in the urban areas, including Bengaluru city. It will be managed in collaboration with GBA and corporate entities through the CSR funds," he said.

He announced 12 new police stations to be set up in 2026-27 to improve the efficient management of law and order and traffic in the state. "Further, 10 new police station buildings will be constructed at the cost of Rs 30 crore during the current year," he said.

IN BRIEF

Science City to come up in Bengaluru

To promote scientific learning and innovation, the government has proposed setting up a state-of-the-art Science City in Bengaluru. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said DPR has already been prepared and submitted to the Central government for the Rs 233-cr project. The facility is planned to come up at Adinarayana Hosahalli in Bengaluru. Once approval is received, the state will take further steps for its design and development, he said.

Rs 10 crore for Quantum Road Map

The budget has set aside Rs 10 crore for the implementation of the first phase of the Quantum Road Map. Over five years, the Quantum Road Map will train and develop high-quality human resources required in quantum technology sector. In July 2025, Siddaramaiah announced a Rs 1,000 crore allocation for Karnataka's Quantum Mission at the Quantum India Bengaluru Summit. The roadmap lays out a plan for the state to become global quantum capital by 2035.

Boost for infrastructure at govt ITIs

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced the Karnataka-Quality Upgradation for Employment and Skills Transformation (K-QUEST) Project, which is slated to be implemented at a cost of Rs 1,386 crore over a period of five years in partnership with Asian Development Bank.
The scheme is aimed at improving infrastructure and training at government-run industrial training institutes, KGTTIs, KSDA and JTSs.

STATE BUDGET 2026

The state government has maintained fiscal discipline and continued economic growth despite 'non-cooperation' from the Union government.

Voices

It is disappointing, a dull Budget with no vision. In his 17th Budget, the chief minister has given nothing to the people. In the last three years, the government has borrowed Rs 4.39 lakh crore and is now depending on the excise department to fund its guarantees. Siddaramaiah wants to make Karnataka a state of drunkards..

B Y VIJAYENDRA
BJP state president

It's a directionless and "zero-progress" budget that would push Karnataka into a debt trap. It's a deficit budget with heavy borrowing, and proposed loans of Rs 1.32 lakh crore, imposed around Rs 25,000 crore in new taxes and has a deficit of nearly Rs 32,000 crore. I did not expect such a budget from a chief minister who has presented the budget 17 times. UKP Phase-3 has not received adequate funds.

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI
former CM

Budget Highlights

1. **Rs 7 cr** to conduct surveys, issue ID cards and form town vending committees for street vendors
2. **100 Miyawaki** Parks to be constructed in selected urban areas by densely planting native species
3. **300 footbridges** to be constructed for students in the unconnected habitations of the Malnad and coast
4. **Vidyarthi Indira Canteens** to be set up for students coming for higher studies and competitive exams in B'luru and Dharwad
5. **Rs 27 cr** for the construction of an administrative block, indoor stadium and officers' quarters on the premises of Guv's office

It was "Slogan" Ramaiah speech. In his pursuit of records, Siddaramaiah has pushed the state's economy into disarray. Despite CAG and RBI warning, state is in deeper fiscal risk. Growing revenue deficit and rise in public debt are deeply concerning. CM chose unnecessary criticism of the Centre ignoring principles of cooperative federalism while glorifying the flawed model of his government.

H D KUMARASWAMY
Union Minister

State proposes content-based tax for alcohol

High on expectations
Sets excise revenue target of Rs 45,000 cr for 2026-27

ASHWIN B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

In a major overhaul of the 60-year-old Karnataka Excise Act, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday announced a shift towards global taxation standard and complete deregulation of alcohol pricing.

He introduced the Alcohol-in-Beverage (AIB) excise duty structure. Starting April 2026, taxes will be levied based on actual alcohol content rather than total volume. This transition will be phased in over the next three to four years to avoid market disruption.

Major industry reforms

The CM said that the government had ended its role in fixing liquor prices. Under the new policy, price fixation is deregulated allowing manufacturers to place their products in slabs based on market competition. To simplify the process, the existing 16 pricing slabs have been halved to 8 slabs.

Licensing is also getting a digital makeover. Manufacturing licences will now be auto-renewed, while label approvals and occasional licences (CL-5) will be auto-generated through online self-declaration, removing manual intervention and hurdles.

Tech and tourism push

To curb revenue leakage, the state is replacing physical escorts for liquor dispatches with blockchain-based tracking and geo-fenced e-lock systems. In a boost for the industry, distilleries and breweries are now permitted 24-hour operations.

The budget also looks to tap into "alcobeer tourism." Distilleries and breweries will be allowed to host tasting sessions and sell products directly to tourists on their premises. Additionally, the mandatory requirement to display malt and sugar content on beer labels has been removed.

Revenue and social cost

The government reported a 12.7% growth in excise revenue for the current fiscal year, reaching Rs 36,492 crore by February. For the 2026-27 financial year, the state has set an ambitious revenue target of Rs 45,000 crore.

While the Excise department focuses on revenue and compliance, the Health department will now lead public health interventions, including de-addiction and rehabilitation initiatives, to address the social impact of alcohol consumption.

Tapping into 'Kannada pride' with GSS centenary events, academies

Art at the heart
Facelift for CAVA, Gubbi Veeranna Kalamandir

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah unveiled a roadmap for the Kannada and culture department, placing emphasis on literary legacies and the preservation of folk traditions.

The budget allocates funds to honour literary stalwarts and tribal artistes, while expanding the state's institutional reach through new academies and university chairs.

A major highlight of the cultural budget is the birth centenary celebration of national poet G S Shivarudrappa.

The government has earmarked Rs 2 crore for a series of events including poetry symposiums, seminars and the publication of his comprehensive literary volumes. To encourage future scholars, a national fellowship and the GSS award will be instituted.

A dedicated Chair will be established in the name of Jnanpith awardee U R Ananthamurthy at Kuvempu University.

The government plans to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Dalit Literature Movement by publishing "Ardhashatamanada Dalita Sahitya," a collection featuring works by the late Siddalingaiah and other prominent Dalit writers, with an allocation of Rs 1 crore.

To bring folk and tribal art forms into the mainstream, 'Janapada Sangama,' a new cultural event will be launched to showcase works by tribal artistes and scholars.

The 'Bengaluru Habba' will see a collaborative effort to organise theatre, fine arts, and sculpture exhibitions annually, at Rs 5 crore.

The Chamarajendra College of Visual Arts in Mysuru is set for a facelift with Rs 2 crore for a well-equipped art gallery, auditorium and sculpture pedestals. Similarly, the Gubbi Veeranna Kalamandira in Tumakuru will be upgraded at Rs 3 crore.

In a bid to make Kannada classical literature accessible to the younger generation, the Karnataka Sahitya Academy will publish the works of ancient poets like Pampa, Ranna, Basava, Kanakadasa and Purandaradasa using "short sentences and colour pictures" tailored for children.

For linguistic & cultural pockets

- Havyaka Bhasha Academy will be established to strengthen Havyaka language.
- Banjara encyclopaedia - a comprehensive work covering the history, food and crafts of the Gor Banjara community will be published.
- Rs 2 crore has been set aside to support the 180 Karaga festivals celebrated by the Tigala community across the state.

Budget boosts health infra; free insulin to children

Wellness as wealth
Aims to make healthcare more affordable and accessible

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

The budget has significant announcements for health and family welfare department to make healthcare more affordable and accessible.

In the budget, Rs 45 crore will be allocated to casualty department, operation theatres and intensive care units (ICUs) to be upgraded in a phased manner across all district and taluk level hospitals.

The government will provide free insulin pens for Type 1 diabetes for children under 18 years of age.

Essential medicines to be provided for low birth weight and sick newborns, comprehensive newborn care will be strengthened at a cost of Rs 10 crore.

About Rs 900 crore has been allocated for construction of primary healthcare centres, community healthcare centres and taluk hospitals to complete works started in the last three years.

After pressure from ASHA workers, an increment of Rs 1,000 has been announced in the budget.

The government has decided to provide Rs 400 crore for existing 2018 treatment package rates under Ayushman Bharat-Arogya Karnataka (AB-Ark) scheme by adopting HBP-2022 package rates.

Other announcements

lKerala home-based palliative care will be provided in collaboration with Pallium India for patients suffering from severe, chronic and terminal illness.

lA public health cadre will be implemented in a phased manner by ensuring objectivity in the appointment of district health officers (DHO), district surgeons (DS) and other administrative posts.

lDigitization of all registers maintained by health department staff across the state through 'Samasta' mobile application.

lImplementation of completely computerized registration, digitalisation of health records and UPI-based payment systems in government health centres.

l Setting up of tele-radiology and tele-labor rooms (smarty labour room) in all health institutions.

lThe successful Iskcon food supply model will be extended to select district and taluk hospitals.

lPanchakarma units will be established in select district and taluk AYUSH hospitals on self-sustaining model. l About 2,500 vacant posts in department to be filled up.

AI gets shot in the arm

With Artificial Intelligence (AI) reshaping established notions of industry and work mechanisms, the 2026-27 Budget tabled by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has foregrounded AI at the centre of the state's vision for technological advancement and to shape the future workforce.

- Karnataka has improved from 21st to 14th position in the global start-up ecosystem, and is now home to over 18,000 active start-ups.
- Comprehensive strategy to integrate AI across key sectors such as agriculture, education, governance, and skill development.
- AI-based personalised self-learning digital tutor in collaboration with IIT Dharwad.
- Establishing Modern AI Data Labs in 50 government colleges located in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.
- 250 engineering graduates from the Backward Classes will receive advanced AI training in premier institutions such as IITs, NITs, and IIMs.
- Centre of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence will be established at IIIT Raichur at a cost of Rs 5 crore

ILLUSTRATION: SAJITH KUMAR

Rohith Vemula Act to prevent caste-based discrimination in universities

For social justice Bill likely to come up for discussion in legislative session soon

RASHMI BELUR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Although the Rohith Vemula Bill was discussed on various occasions in cabinet meetings, it was not introduced in the earlier legislative session.

The Bill, aimed to prevent caste-based discrimination and atrocities against students at higher educational institutions, however, is likely to come up in the legislature session beginning from Monday.

"Rohith Vemula Act will be enacted to prevent atrocities on caste lines on students across all government, private and deemed universities in the state," Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said in his budget speech.

With this announcement, Karnataka becomes the first Congress-led state in the country to implement the Rohith Vemula Act. Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi had written to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in 2025, calling for the enactment of the law at the earliest.

Student elections back

Student elections at the universities will be back soon, with Siddaramaiah announcing their reintroduction in his budget.

"Student Union Elections will be conducted in colleges and universities to foster leadership, responsibility and democratic values among students," stated Siddaramaiah.

KPCC president and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar had constituted a committee of legislators to discuss and submit recommendations on student elections. Ministers for medical education and higher education were both on the panel.

The committee has held two meetings and invited public and stakeholders' opinions on the same.

Student elections were banned in the state in 1989 following some violations on university campuses during the elections. However, this was also stressed by Rahul Gandhi again.

Important announcements

- 90 days maternity leave facility for female guest faculty working at all government first-grade colleges, polytechnics, and engineering colleges
- Rs 100 crore will be provided to UVCE, Bengaluru, in 2026-27
- In partnership with Anita B.org India, Rs 13.50 crore has been set aside to provide vocational training for the selected 3,000 female graduates pursuing Science, Technology, Mathematics and Engineering courses
- Fifteen new courses with high demand and employment potential, including AI, Machine Learning, Cloud computing etc will be commended at 11 government polytechnics and engineering colleges in Chitradurga
- 2,000 teaching posts will be filled at government degree, engineering and polytechnic colleges and UVCE
- 1,000 teaching posts in public universities will be filled in a phased manner after rationalisation
- Rs 31 crore earmarked for 25 degree and polytechnic and three engineering colleges having more than 50% girl students for infrastructure development
- 25 acres of land for a private Vachana University in Basavakalyana

1K diesel buses for RTCs, dept may face revenue shortfall

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

The government has proposed the procurement of 1,000 new diesel buses to improve the services of the State Road Transport Corporations (RTCs) in 2026–27.

This is in addition to the 2,000 buses announced in the previous budget, taking the total number of buses added over the last three years to 6,596 across transport corporations.

"These diesel buses will be distributed among the KSRTC, the KKRTC and the NWKRTC. We will allocate the buses adequately based on each corporation's requirements. The Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) will get electric buses," Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy Told *DH*.

In addition, the KSRTC wil induct 1,500 new buses while implementing the Vehicle Tracking and Monitoring System (VTMS). Two surveillance cameras each will be installed in 1,000 buses.

The budget also places significant emphasis on electric mobility. Under the Karnataka Electric Bus Programme, to be implemented with assistance from the World Bank at a cost of Rs 2,000 crore, the government plans to induct 4,000 e-buses.

To support the transition, 32 depots of the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) and 62 depots belonging to other RTCs will be upgraded to facilitate electric bus operations.

Additionally, the government will provide Rs 1,271 crore for the payment of salary arrears between January 2021 and February 2023 for employees of RTCs.

The 2026-27 budget estimate for KSRTC is Rs 225 crore, up from Rs 222 crore in 2025-26. The budget for NWKRTC has increased from Rs 142 crore in 2025-26 to Rs 144 crore in 2026-27, and for KKRTC from Rs 119 crore to Rs 120 crore. The BMTC has been allocated Rs 317.45 crore, compared to Rs 265.72 crore last year.

In January 2025, the government announced that it would act as a guarantor for a Rs 2,000 crore loan that the four RTCs would raise from financial institutions to clear provident fund and diesel dues. In this, the KSRTC will get Rs 623.8 crore, BMTC Rs 589.2 crore, NWKRTC Rs 646 crore and KKRTC Rs 141 crore.

In the 2026-27 budget, the government has allocated Rs 182 crore for KSRTC, BMTC Rs 239.97 crore, Rs 174 crore for NWKRTC, and Rs 41 crore for KKRTC. The BMTC has been given another Rs 250 crore for transportation assets.

Overall, road transport has been allocated a budget of Rs 7,224 crore, compared to 6,242 crore in 2025-26. Of the total budget, the Shakti scheme has been allocated Rs 5,300 crore, the same as the previous years.

Revenue shortfall?

The Transport Department faces an uphill task of collecting Rs 3,370 crore in March to meet the year's revenue target of Rs 15,000 crore. It has collected Rs 11,630 crore up to February. The revenue target for 2026-27 is Rs 15,500 crore.

IN BRIEF

IVF centres at government hospitals

To make In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) treatment affordable, the government has decided to establish IVF Centres at Vani Vilas Hospital, Bengaluru and Gulbarga Medical College, Kalaburagi. It has decided to set up a regional centre of Jayadeva Cardiovascular Institute at the Multispecialty Hospital at Govindarajanagar, Bengaluru, in collaboration with GBA, at a cost of Rs 15 crore. Rs 198 crore has also been set aside to establish a 450-bed Multi-Speciality Hospital at Karwar.

AI-driven helpline to address PDS grievances

The 1967 helpline to record grievances related to public distribution system set up by the food and civil supplies department will be transformed into an Artifical Intelligence-based 'Smart Annavani' comprising automated grievance redressal centre, voice chatbot and live call transfer system. In 2026-27, the government has also set aside Rs 6,200 crore for Indira Food Kit containing tur dal, sugar, salt, and cooking oil to be distributed every month.

Hike in housing subsidy for general category

In 2026-27, the government has set a target to complete three lakh houses under various housing schemes. The government has also set a new target of one lakh Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC) houses and increased the subsidy to the beneficiaries belonging to the General Category from Rs 1.20 lakh to Rs 2 lakh. The subsidy for beneficiaries belonging to Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) has been increased from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 3 lakh.

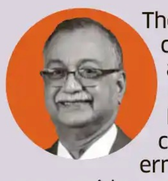
STATE BUDGET 2026

With a view to safeguard the rights of Scheduled Tribes, the government will set up a separate Scheduled Tribes Commission will be established to hear their grievances and issues.

Voices

The Budget has taken several positive steps to strengthen the healthcare ecosystem, particularly through the revision of treatment package rates under the Ayushman Bharat–Arogya Karnataka scheme. There is scope to further strengthen the healthcare ecosystem by encouraging greater private participation, particularly in Tier-2 and Tier-3 regions.

DR SHARAN SHIVARAJ PATIL
Chairman SPARSH Group of Hospitals



The budget signals a strong commitment to improving access, affordability, and quality of healthcare in Karnataka. Continued collaboration between government and private healthcare providers will be essential to translate these investments into measurable health outcomes for citizens.

DR H SUDARSHAN BALLAL
Chairman, Manipal Hospitals

Budget Highlights

1. Govt to formulate multimodal logistics policy for development of ports and cargo transport zones
2. 100 acres to be identifiedfor vehicle scrapping facility in Chikkaballapur to safely dispose of end-of-life vehicles
3. A world-class convention complex planned at Malleswaram, Bengaluru, for high-profile conferences
4. A drone testing facility to be established in the Chikkaballapur district to support drone testing
5. Rs 4 crore for development of advanced surgical-assisted robot (COBOT) along with IIIT-Bangalore and Nimhans for improved outcomes in neuro-surgical procedures

While Rs 1,255 crore has been allocated for ward roads, priority should be on improving existing roads with proper footpaths, removal of encroachments etc. Funds earmarked for white-topping should be instead used to upgrade roads to Tender SURE standards. The Rs 450-crore upgrade of the Outer Ring Road during ongoing Metro work is ill timed. Despite the creation of the Greater Bengaluru Authority, citizens are yet to see meaningful improvements in transparency or governance.

SANDEEP ANIRUDHAN
Convener, Citizens' Agenda for Bengaluru

Rs 15,066 cr SC/ST funds 'diverted' for guarantees

Deviating from purpose? Opposition parties, Dalit and progressive groups not amused

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru, DHNS: Amid backlash against using the funds under the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan (SCSP/TSP) Act for the guarantees, the government has allotted Rs 15,066.46 crore out of the Rs 44,632 crore (33.75%) Budgetary outlay for guarantees.

Of the Rs 15,066.46 cr, Rs 10,789.58 cr has been apportioned from the SCSP share, while Rs 4,276.88 cr has been allotted from the TSP fund.

This marks the fourth consecutive Budget since the Congress came to power in 2023, during which the SC/ST funds have been used for the guarantee schemes.

Of the five flagship guarantees, the Gruha Lakshmi got the biggest share of the pie from the SCSP/TSP kitty (Rs 9,193.85 crore), followed by Gruha Jyothi (Rs 2,591.61 crore), Anna Bhagya (Rs 1,612 crore), Shakti scheme (Rs 1,537 crore) and Yuva Nidhi scheme (Rs 162 crore).

Even though the government has increased allocation under SCSP/TSP from Rs 42,018 crore has been increased to Rs 44,632 crore, the share of the amount going to guarantees has increased by Rs 1,632.62 crore (from Rs 13,433.84 crore to Rs 15,066.46 crore).

The SCSP/TSP Act, which was enacted in 2013 during Siddaramaiah's first term as the chief minister, mandates allocating 24.1% of the state plan outlay (population % of SC and STs as per the 2011 census).

Though Section 7C of the Act allows allocation of funds from the SCSP/TSP corpus for general sector schemes like education, health and guarantees, the spirit of the Act dictates expenditure only for asset creation and capacity building of SC/STs.

The propriety of using SCSP/TSP funds for guarantees has been one of the most contentious political debates for almost three years.

The opposition BJP-JD(S) combine, Dalit organisations and progressive forces have criticised the move.

Even within the Congress, Dalit legislators and leaders are said to be miffed with the practice, and have urged the chief minister to scrap Section 7C.

While the BJP slammed the Congress for "diverting" SCSP/TSP funds for guarantees, the Congress defended the move as legal under the Act. The Congress has also scored brownie points by arguing that it was the Siddaramaiah-led Congress that brought the Act, and that no other BJP-ruled state in the country has ever enacted such a law.

The Congress has also accused the BJP of "misusing" the now-scrapped Section 7D of the Act, which provided for deemed expenditure on infrastructure projects.

No revenue surplus till 29-30: MTFP

Hands tied GST shortfall, rigidity of committed revenue expenditure among factors

BHARATH JOSHI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka will not see a revenue-surplus budget until 2029-30, the Medium Term Fiscal Plan (MTFP) 2026-30 said Friday, blaming this on GST rationalisation and "the consequent revenue loss" of around Rs 15,000 crore in the new fiscal year.

The government had earlier projected that the state will become revenue-surplus in 2027-28.

"This target has been deferred," the MTFP said. "The GST shortfall, along with the rigidity of committed revenue expenditure, is expected to sustain a revenue deficit in the initial years of the projection period," it said.

"With strengthened own-revenue mobilisation and improved compliance, the revenue balance is projected to improve gradually, and the attainment of revenue surplus is now envisaged in 2029–30," the MTFP said.

On Friday, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah presented the 2026-27 Budget with a revenue deficit of Rs 22,957 crore. Karnataka has been under revenue deficit since 2023-24.

The MTFP underlined the need to strike a balance between developmental spending, welfare commitments and fiscal prudence. This balance "remains central to supporting long-term growth and maintaining service delivery outcomes," it said.

According to MTFP, the state could face "emerging challenges of urban infrastructure stress, climate variability, external trade uncertainty in the merchandise sector and evolving national taxation and transfer frameworks."

The MTFP projections are also based on "key risks". They include: possible shifts in Union reliance on cesses and surcharges affecting divisible revenues, deviations in growth-inflation dynamics affecting revenue buoyancy and expenditure pressures, and execution risks in scaling up capital expenditure.

"The state will continue to adopt a cautious approach to projections while safeguarding fiscal buffers and prioritising high-impact expenditures," the MTFP said.

Tax relief

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced Friday a proposal to reduce sales tax on "environmentally friendly" Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from 14.34% to 5% in order to promote its use in the industrial and transport sectors. Siddaramaiah also proposed exempting persons who have paid the full tax due for a year from filing annual returns under the Karnataka Tax on Professions, Trades, Callings and Employments Act. "Further, enrolled persons who are exempt from profession tax, will also be relieved from the requirement of furnishing returns," he said.

Slew of schemes to assuage Siddaramaiah's 'core constituency'

Keeping them happy Buddhist development corporation among promises

BENGALURU, DHNS

At a time when the social justice credentials of the Congress government have come under the scanner, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has sought to assuage his key constituency through a slew of Budgetary promises, including the establishment of an ST commission and the formation of a Buddhist Development Corporation.

Tabling his record-extending 17th Budget on Friday, the chief minister said: "With a view to safeguard the rights of Scheduled Tribes, a separate Scheduled Tribes Commission will be established to hear their grievances and issues."

A section of the Ahinda (Kannada acronym for minorities, backward classes and SC and STs) communities—traditional supporters of the Congress and Siddaramaiah—have opposed the decision to use funds under Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan/Tribal Sub-Plan (SCSP/TSP) Act for guarantees. They are also upset over not accepting the Jayaprakash Hegde commission's report on social and educational survey and not providing a separate 1% reservation to 59 nomadic, semi-nomadic and highly sensitive SC communities, and not repealing the Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Act, 2022 (anti-conversion law).

The promise to constitute an ST commission comes months after Siddaramaiah committed on the floor of the Assembly in August, 2025, to form a permanent SC Commission. These commissions are on the lines of the Backward Classes Commission.

The announcement to form a Buddhist Development Corporation has brought cheer to several Dalit organisations, who had urged the chief minister to form such a corporation to support converts to Buddhism, many of whom are Dalits.

Alongside, Rs 100 crore has been earmarked for the Comprehensive development of Jain, Buddhist and Sikh communities under the Minorities Welfare Department.

While Rs 44,632 crore has been announced for the SCSP/TSP Act (Rs 31,804 for SCSP and Rs 12,828 Crore for TSP), concerns remain over the usage of these funds — meant for asset creation and capacity building — for general sector schemes like guarantees.

Another key announcement is the formation of a high-level committee, headed by the CM, to oversee the implementation of backward classes programmes, employment and educational reservations.

Rs 1,500 crore will be earmarked for Social Welfare, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare corporations during the year 2026-27.

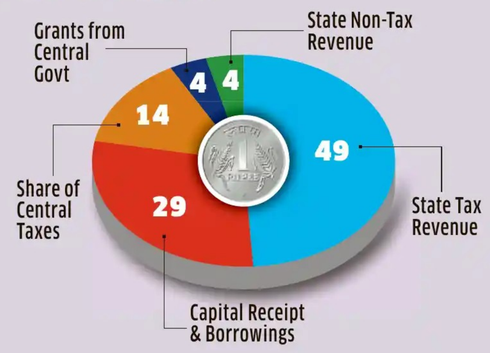
The chief minister has tried to pacify the nomadic communities by providing Rs 100 crore for the SC and ST nomadic and semi-nomadic development corporation.

Towards Graft-free governance

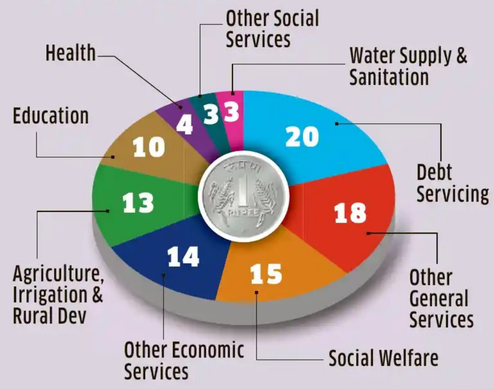
Fighting corruption with counselling-based transfers

- Transfers are often cited as a source of corruption. The Budget has announced the introduction of counselling-based transfer of government employees.
- Counselling system for transfers of land surveyors and village adminsitrative officers in revenue department.
- Counselling system for transfers of officers and staff in Muzrai department.
- In the excise department, digital counselling-based transfers will be introduced for superintendents and their deputies.
- For the first time in India, a structured, transparent performance and metric-based evaluation system will be introduced for group-A officers in commercial taxes department. This system will form the basis for counselling-based transfers up to the rank of joint commissioner, the CM said.

How the Rupee comes 2026-27
(Units in paise)



Where the Rupee goes 2026-27
(Units in paise)



Scheme to boost solar energy generation

Harnessing the sun Solar power plants of 3,000 MW will be commissioned in KPTCL sub-centres

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government has announced a new scheme called 'Mukhya Mantri Saura Krishi Yojane' on the lines of the Union government in a push for solar energy.

"Under this scheme, solar power plants with a capacity of 3,000 MW will be commissioned in KPTCL sub-centres under the Renewable Energy Service Company (Resco) model at an estimated cost of Rs 10,500 crore," Siddaramaiah said.

The scheme is similar to the Kusum-C scheme being implemented by the Centre, where the government provides a subsidy to set up solar units near agricultural electricity feeders.

Rs 3,200 cr for BESS

Apart from that, the government has also earmarked Rs 3,400 crore to set up Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) that are crucial to boost the use of renewable energy. These systems will be set up at Huliyur, Pavagada and Kushtagi sub-stations.

To meet the increasing power demand, the government has also decided to set up 100 new substations across the state.

1,250 EV charging stations

In a big push to promote the use of electric vehicles, the government has approved the setting up of 1,250 EV charging stations at public places at a cost of Rs 777 crore.

"Since our government assumed office, power generation has increased significantly. However, adequate infrastructure is required to supply this electricity efficiently to the people. The announcement of 100 new substations during 2026–27 is a decisive step. It helps ensure a reliable power supply to all," Energy Minister K J George said.

Incubation centre

To encourage startups in the renewable energy sector, the Energy Department has decided to set up an incubation centre, in collaboration with IIM Bangalore, the University of New South Wales, Australia and IISc at an estimated cost of Rs 20 crore.

At Rs 19,290 crore, subsidy for power consumed by agricultural pumpsets takes the lion's share of budget allocated for energy sector, followed by Rs 10,578 crore for implementation of free power – Gruha Jyothi scheme.

CM invokes Bheeshma, blames Centre for fiscal strain

Burden on exchequer Untimely GST rate rationalisation burdened state's finances, says Siddu

PRATHIMA NANDAKUMAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Invoking the philosophy of Bheeshma to drive home his point on cooperative federalism, the CM Siddaramaiah used his Budget speech to sharply target the Centre, blaming it for worsening Karnataka's fiscal stress even as criticism mounts over the State's own spending priorities.

"The cow that yields abundant milk requires proper care. If that cow becomes weak, the entire cowherd suffers," Siddaramaiah said, arguing that Karnataka, among the country's highest tax-contributing states, was being "shortchanged" by the Centre. He alleged that the Centre's failure to fully compensate for GST revenue loss, non-devolution of cesses and surcharges, and lower tax devolution recommended by the 15th Finance Commission had compounded the state's fiscal challenges.

He flagged concerns over the state's reduced share in Centrally sponsored schemes and what he described as "untimely" GST rate rationalisation.

'K'taka devpt model'

However, Siddaramaiah insisted the government had maintained fiscal discipline and continued economic growth "despite non-cooperation from union government." He defended the guarantees as part of what he called the "unique Karnataka development model."

"The guarantees are not freebies but strategic investments made on economic and social principles based on the Universal Basic Income concept," he said. A political flashpoint was the state's recent decision to oppose the Centre's proposed replacement for the UPA-era Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act scheme with VB G RAM G programme.

He accused the Centre of systematically weakening the rural employment programme, warning that it threatened people's right to work and increased the financial burden on states.

Over the past three years, works worth Rs 21,411 crore had been undertaken in Karnataka under the scheme, creating 16 lakh assets and providing employment to 80.2 lakh households, including 25.6 lakh SC and 9.4 lakh ST households.

Calling for a fairer tax devolution formula that recognises both equity and efficiency, he said states contributing significantly to the national economy must be rewarded.

But aas critics note, the bigger concern may be the political fireworks within the Congress as the power tussle intensifies.

IN BRIEF

Monetisation of assets on the cards

The CM announced that the government has decided to monetise unutilised assets of the Karnataka State Warehousing Corporation to financially strengthen the corporation. As part of the plan, in 2026-27, the government will set up commercial complexes at Bamboo Bazaar in Mysuru and Cotton Market in Hubballi under PPP. That apart, the government will soon submit a proposal to RBI to establish DCC banks in each district.

Funds earmarked for filling up tanks

The budget also included several initiatives to fill tanks in various villages. Under the third phase of the Hebbala-Nagawara Valley project, Rs 237 crore has been earmarked for filling up 164 tanks, including 45 tanks in Shidlaghatta and 119 tanks in Chintamani. A sum of Rs 140 crore has been set aside to fill 59 tanks of Sulibele and Nandagudi hoblis in Hosakote taluk with treated sewage water from the HN Valley Project.

Plan to give impetus to coastal tourism

The budget laid focus on coastal tourism with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announcing a Comprehensive Coastal Tourism Development plan.
That apart, Rs 100 crore has been set aside for development of the pilgrimage site of Anjanadri Hill in Gangavathi taluk of Koppal district.
The government will also offer Diploma courses specifically for the tour guides in selected universities of the state.

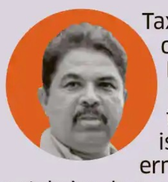
STATE BUDGET 2026

The guarantees are not freebies but strategic investments made on economic and social principles based on the Universal Basic Income concept.

Voices

Focusing on AI and tech initiatives through infrastructure enablement for R&D will further widen the state's footprint on core-engineering for AI. This AI initiative will democratise access to new-age tech and open more avenues for grassroots startups to create impact.

ANIL ETHANUR
Co-founder, Xpheno



Tax for all, debt on every one-sums up this budget. Karnataka is too important to India's economic growth to be run on fiscal adventurism. People deserve a government that strengthens Karnataka's role as a national growth engine, not one that risks derailing it through unrealistic projections and politically driven spending. It raises serious concerns over fiscal credibility, with missed revenue targets, rising deficits and borrowing.

R ASHOKA
Leader of the Opposition

Budget Highlights

1. **Rs 24 crore** to set up six new **planetariums** at **Vijayanagara, Ballari, Chitradurga, Yadgir, Koppal** and **Bidar**
2. **Rs 65 crore** to develop **Kaveri 3.0** software to enable an **AI-based** paperless registration process by the Revenue Department
3. **Rs 40 cr** to replace **5,150** telemetric weather stations for dissemination of **rain, weather data** and **early warnings**
4. **'Anantha'** scheme to set up **Solar Micro Grids** in all Gram Panchayats, which will help in generating **4000 MW** of electricity annually
5. **100 acres** in **Mandya** for the construction & infrastructure testing facility with **Automotive Research Association of India**

The announcement to build a cable car ropeway connecting Mullayangiri, Seethalayyagiri and Kaimara in Chikkamagaluru district is a disastrous move. The previous BJP government had also announced the ropeway project, which was dropped following opposition. Mullayanagiri is a unique shola forest of high altitude and a tiger habitat. Such projects will damage the ecosystem, the origin of Yagachi and Veda rivers.

VEERESH G
Wildlife activist

Revenue dept set for digital transformation

Tectonic shift Registration process to go paperless; key procedures to go online

BENGALURU, DHNS

Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered paperless registration that can simplify the entire process, besides improving integration across government platforms will soon become a reality with the Kaveri 3.0 software slated to get an upgrade costing Rs 65 crore.

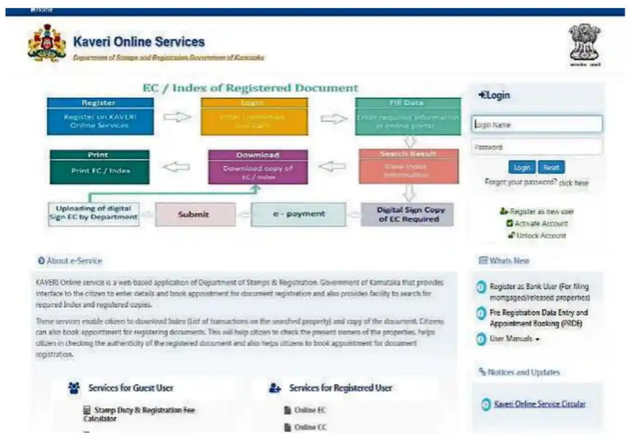
The budget also contains provisions for the integration of Kaveri 3.0 with asset management systems across departments, while enabling a wholly digital workflow in the registration process handled by the Stamps and Registration wing.

The move will complement the remote registration system introduced through the Registration Act amendment of 2025, which removes the need for citizens to visit sub-registrar offices for property registration.

Once the amendment to regularise remote registration by notified private institutions receives the President's assent, it will also benefit large developers executing projects approved by the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA).

A platform for digital e-stamping and end-to-end paperless registration, allowing processes such as stamp generation, record writing, document storage, retrieval and digital sharing will soon go online.

All pre-2003 legacy documents will be digitised across 207 sub-registrar offices; a sub-registrar office in each district will be upgraded to improve citizen experience, while five Mega Registration Centres on the lines of Passport Seva Kendras will be established under the public-private partnership model.



The Karnataka Land Stack scheme will integrate databases of Bhoomi, Mojini, Kaveri, e-Swathu and e-Asthi into a GIS-based platform.

The Bhoomi land records system will be upgraded to Bhoomi 8.0 at the cost of Rs 50 crore and will be linked to more than 10 departments.

Over 50 lakh Tippans and FMBs and more than one crore atlases will be digitised in the Survey Department using GIS tools, while modern record rooms will be created to preserve land records that are over 160 years old.

BJP accuses Congress govt of minority appeasement

Saffron party's charge Govt ignoring broader developmental priorities

Leader of Opposition in Legislative Assembly R Ashoka, state BJP president B Y Vijayendra and others stage a protest against the budget presented by the chief minister, in Bengaluru on Friday.
DH PHOTO/PRASHANTH H G

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka BJP on Friday accused Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and the ruling Congress of pursuing "minority appeasement" through the State Budget 2026–27, alleging that a significant share of public funds had been earmarked to retain its vote bank.

BJP leaders criticised several announcements made in the budget presented on Friday for minority welfare, including Rs 1,000 crore allocated to upgrade minority schools on the Karnataka Public Schools model, starting new minority residential schools, special coaching for minority students preparing for competitive examinations, and Rs 50,000 assistance for laptops.

Allocations opposed

The party also objected to allocations for infrastructure development in minority colonies, subsidies of up to Rs 3 lakh for unemployed minorities, interest waivers on loans from the Minorities Development Corporation, and the proposal to construct Haj Bhavans in Hubballi and Kalaburagi.

The BJP further pointed to plans to establish two old-age homes for destitute minorities, four hostels for working minority women, and funds earmarked for development of Waqf properties.

Govt's primary objective

The saffron party alleged that the Congress government had made appeasement politics its primary objective.

The party leaders said that the move was "unfortunate" and accused the government of ignoring broader developmental priorities in the state.

Sandalwood set for new age with digital, infra plans

Transforming Tinsel Town Single-window 'Cine Mitra', Mysuru film city 2.0 on the cards

BENGALURU, DHNS

With an aim to transform Karnataka into a global filming hub, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday announced a series of digital and infrastructural reforms for the Kannada film industry.

The budget saw the launch of 'Cine Mitra', a single-window online platform designed to slash delays for filmmakers.

The platform aims to integrate permissions from various government departments ranging from police and civic bodies to forest authorities under a unified digital umbrella.

Digital maps & heritage museums

To simplify logistics, the government will develop a 'Karnataka Film Location Digital Map' at a cost of Rs 1 crore. This map will serve as a directory for production houses, highlighting tourist destinations, historical monuments, and lesser known scenic spots across the state.

In a move to preserve the state's cinematic legacy, the chief minister announced that the residence of the legendary filmmaker Puttanna Kanagal will be developed into a museum.

The ambitious Mysuru Film City project, initially pegged at Rs 500 crore, has received a revised administrative approval. The updated blueprint will now include a dedicated theme park to attract tourists, as well as star hotels and restaurants.

Addressing the financial concerns of producers, the chief minister noted that while the subsidy for quality Kannada movies was previously discontinued, the government has moved to clear pending dues.

Following the selection of movies for three years in 2025-26, an additional Rs 20 crore has been allocated to distribute subsidies for the remaining years.

For the preservation of state history, a Rs 5-crore project titled "Digital Drishya Karnataka" will be launched.

This platform will digitise the repository of photographs and video documentaries currently held by the Information Department, making them accessible for research and public viewing.

Farmers first policy

Total allocation for agriculture and horticulture: Rs 8,373 cr
Solar micro grids in all Gram Panchayats under public-private partnership under 'Anantha' scheme

- **Rs 100-cr 'Krishi Vistara'** scheme for strengthening post-harvest activities such as processing, value addition, value chain development, recycling of agricultural waste, and market linkages.
- **'Vasudhamruta'** programme to be implemented over the next three years to promote eco-friendly and sustainable agricultural practices.
- **'Sasya Sanjeevini'** scheme to identify pests and diseases at an early stage and provide timely recommendations to farmers on control measures.
- **Farmers Call Centre** to be upgraded using AI technology to provide farmers with quick, centralised access to reliable information on weather, markets and agricultural technology.
- **Millet Hub** to function as a single-window system to provide technical assistance, processing facilities, quality certification, and market linkages under one roof to farmers.
- **High-value farms, post-harvest technologies** and **horticulture-based industries** to be established in farms and nurseries of the horticulture department under Public-Private Partnership.
- **Raita Malls** will be established through **MSIL** on a pilot basis in all taluks of **Kolar district** to provide quality seeds, pesticides, fertilisers, and agricultural implements at affordable rates under one roof.
- **12,000-MT cold storage** facilities to come up in **Honnali** of **Davangere district** and **Toravi** of **Vijayapura district.**

ILLUSTRATION: SAJITH KUMAR

Land acquisition for UKP Stage 3; new DPR for Mekedatu project

Irrigation in focus Replacemet of all crest gates in TB dam before monsoon

MANJUNATH HEGDE BOMNALLI
HUBBALLI, DHNS

The government has announced that it will start the process to acquire land for the canal network and submergence in the wake of the plan to raise Almatti dam height from 519.6 metres to 524.256 metres, under Upper Krishna Project (UKP) Stage 3, a long-pending demand.

The announcement in the budget comes at a time when the state has urged the Centre to allow the rise in the dam height, while neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra have raised objections to the project.

Karnataka will also submit a revised detailed project report (DPR) to the Centre, along with a proposal for forest clearance, to implement Mekedatu reservoir project across River Cauvery.

He also termed the dismissal of Tamil Nadu's petitions in the Supreme Court regarding Mekedatu project a significant legal victory for Karnataka, stating that a revised DPR would shortly be submitted in light of this judgment.

For UKP stage 3 project, revised consent rates of Rs 30 lakh and Rs 40 lakh per acre have been fixed for acquisition of dry and wet land, respectively,

he said.

"The replacement of 33 dilapidated gates of Tungabhadra dam with new ones will be completed before onset of monsoon. The construction of a balancing reservoir near Navali to address deficit in water storage capacity (due to silt accumulation) is under consideration," he said.

The state government has incurred an expenditure of Rs 11,343 crore for the Upper Bhadra Project and the Union government has released no funds, the chief minister said.

The 135-km-long Chitradurga branch canal and associated feeder works under this project will be completed in 2027 to fill 157 tanks. In the second phase of the Yettinahole Comprehensive Drinking Water Project, the remaining 18.73 km-long lift irrigation canal works will be completed shortly, and a balancing reservoir will be constructed in Koratagere taluk to impound excess water, he proposed in the budget.

Siddaramaiah also lamented that the requisite forest clearance from the Centre for the Kalasa-Banduri project under the Mahadayi basin has been pending for two years. Additional financial implications have arisen due to the Centre's inaction, he said.

The government has allocated Rs 8,045 crore for 75 irrigation works, to be implemented in Krishna, Cauvery, Godavari, and other river basins, in the budget.

Yuva Nidhi scheme gets Rs 600 cr

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has earmarked Rs 600 crore for the Yuva Nidhi initiative for the 2026-27 fiscal year. In his budget speech, the CM said that Rs 913 crore had been spent on Yuva Nidhi, with money being credited to the accounts of 3,08,267 beneficiaries.

Siddaramaiah announced the Karnataka-Quality Upgradation for Employment and Skills Transformation (K-QUEST) Project, to be implemented at a cost of Rs 1,386 crore over a period of five years in partnership with Asian Development Bank. The scheme is aimed at improving infrastructure and training at government-run industrial training institutes.

5-yr plan to curb wildlife conflict; push for afforestation

Manpower boost Announcement on filling 2,000 vacancies comes as a big relief to forest dept, where lack of frontline staff had compromised crucial works

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

A Rs 1,500-crore commitment for a five-year programme to mitigate wildlife conflict and promise to fill the vacancies in the forest department are the highlights of the budget which otherwise glossed over major challenges faced due to climate change.

Karnataka has seen a growing number of conflict incidents with an average of 48 lives lost every year in the past five years. The budget has allocated Rs 269 crore for different programmes for mitigation of wildlife conflicts in the first year of the five-year programme.

Chief minister Siddaramaiah said that as many as 2,000 vacancies in the forest department will be filled in 2026-27. The measure comes as a huge relief to the department, where lack of frontline staff in the field had compromised crucial works - from anti-poaching to forest fire management.

The budget promised a leopard rehabilitation centre in Bannerghatta at a cost of Rs 5 crore in view of the high number of big cats rescued from human habitats every year.

However, there was no reference to the demand for separate cadre of veterinarians, even though lack of experienced personnel to dart animals has made the rescue of animals a risky affair.

The government has promised Rs 150 crore for afforestation activities in 75,000 hectares in districts with less than 10% of forest cover, including Kalyana Karnataka districts. A sum of Rs 50 crore will come from the Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Board for the programme.

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre's pet project of creating a Rs 153-acre park in Madappanahalli to provide a lung space for fast developing areas in Bengaluru north received a mention.

A memorial near Hulikal-Kadur in the name of environmentalist Salumarada Thimmakka was another promise made by the government.

To get a better understanding of Bengaluru's air pollution levels, the government promised to add 15 more continuous ambient air quality monitoring centres (CAAQMS). At present, the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board measures air quality in Bengaluru based on readings from 11 stationary CAAQMS and 13 mobile monitoring stations.

IN BRIEF

CT scan centers for livestock in Bengaluru, Bidar

In a first in state, CT scan centers for livestock will be set up at veterinary hospitals at Bengaluru and Bidar Veterinary Colleges. The government has earmarked Rs 10 crore to upgrade 15 taluk veterinary hospitals. To address reproduction concerns in livestock, Rs 5 crore has been set aside to conduct "Phaladhare" camps across 1,000 Gram Panchayats with the slogan of 'One calf per year'.

Training centre for dog birth control

The government has decided to establish dog birth control training centers at Bengaluru and Bidar to give advanced technical training to veterinary doctors and veterinary students. Deaths due to stray dog attacks hit the headlines recently. The Supreme Court has also asked the state governments to take measures to manage stray dogs better and move all the dogs in public places to shelters.

Rs 5k for Vaishnodevi pilgrimage

The government announced a grant of Rs 5,000 for pilgrims to Mata Vaishnodevi temple. The budget set aside Rs 5 crore for 'Jala Nidhi Kalyani Rejuvenation Scheme' to restore 259 kalyanis (temple tanks) in 3 years. Infrastructure at Kukke Subramanya and Kolluru Mookambika temples will see facelift with dedicated development authorities. State-run guesthouses in Varanasi, Srisailam, Mantralaya and Tulajapura will undergo major renovation.

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल. 33004/99 REGD. No. D.L. - 33004/99

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

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MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
NOTIFICATION
New Delhi, the 27th February, 2026

S.O. 1077(E), Date: 27.02.2026— In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building (widening/four laning etc.,),maintenance, management and operation of **NH373 in the stretch of land from Km. 113.00 to Km. 128.080 (Yedegowdanahalli to Arjunahalli Section) in the district of MYSURU in the state of KARNATAKA,** hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section(1) of section 3C of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, **Assistant Commissioner & Competent Authority for Land Aquisition, Hassan District, Hassan** in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under their notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling within the stretch of land from **Km. 113.00 to Km. 128.080 (Yedegowdanahalli to Arjunahalli Section) on NH-373 in the district of MYSURU in the state of KARNATAKA.**

STATE: KARNATAKA **DISTRICT: MYSURU**

Sl. No.	Survey / Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Local Unit) (in Sq.Mtr)	Area (in Hectare)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Taluk: KRISHNARAJA NAGARA					
Village: Sugganahalli					
1	11/3	Private	Dry	809.371	0.0809371
2	11/4	Private	Dry	101.171	0.0101171
3	12	Private	Dry	4552.71	0.455271
4	13/1	Private	Dry	3439.83	0.343983
5	13/2A	Private	Dry	1871.67	0.187167
6	13/2B	Private	Dry	1264.64	0.126464
7	14	Private	Dry	1593.45	0.159345
8	15/1	Private	Dry	531.15	0.053115
9	2/2	Private	Dry	101.171	0.0101171
10	2/3	Private	Dry	177.05	0.017705
11	2/5	Private	Dry	50.586	0.0050586
12	2/6	Private	Dry	101.171	0.0101171
13	2/7	Private	NAK	101.171	0.0101171
14	2/8	Private	Dry	151.757	0.0151757
15	3	Private	Dry	50.586	0.0050586
16	30/12	Private	Dry	177.05	0.017705
17	30/13	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
18	30/14	Private	Dry	202.343	0.0202343
19	30/15	Private	Dry	429.978	0.0429978
20	30/2	Private	Dry	404.685	0.0404685
21	4	Private	Dry	404.685	0.0404685
22	40/1A	Private	Dry	379.393	0.0379393
23	40/1B	Private	NAK	75.879	0.0075879
24	40/3A1	Private	Dry	480.564	0.0480564
25	40/3B	Private	NAK	50.586	0.0050586
26	42	Private	Dry	607.028	0.0607028
27	47	Private	Dry	682.907	0.0682907
28	48	Government	Dry	1568.16	0.156816
29	49/1	Private	Dry	480.564	0.0480564
30	49/2	Private	Dry	404.685	0.0404685
31	49/3	Private	Dry	101.171	0.0101171
32	49/4	Private	Dry	202.343	0.0202343
33	49/5	Private	Dry	328.807	0.0328807
34	49/7	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
35	49/8	Private	Dry	2023.4274	0.202343
36	5/1	Private	Dry	1011.71	0.101171
37	5/2	Private	Dry	2453.41	0.245341
38	50/1	Private	Dry	227.636	0.0227636
39	50/2	Private	Dry	227.636	0.0227636
40	50/3	Private	Dry	708.2	0.07082
41	50/4	Private	Dry	354.1	0.03541
42	50/5	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
43	50/6	Private	Dry	101.171	0.0101171
44	50/7	Private	Dry	227.636	0.0227636
45	50/8	Private	Dry	252.928	0.0252928
46	51/2	Private	Dry	354.1	0.03541
47	51/5	Private	Dry	227.636	0.0227636
48	6	Private	Dry	3642.17	0.364217
49	69/10	Private	Dry	50.586	0.0050586
50	69/8	Private	Dry	151.757	0.0151757
51	71/2	Private	Dry	50.586	0.0050586
52	71/3	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
53	71/4	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
54	71/5	Private	Dry	75.8785	0.0075879
55	71/6	Private	Dry	50.5857	0.0050586
56	71/7	Private	Dry	50.586	0.0050586
57	71/9	Private	Dry	50.586	0.0050586
58	72/1	Private	Dry	75.879	0.0075879
59	72/3	Private	Dry	278.221	0.0278221
60	72/7	Private	Dry	75.8785	0.0075879
61	75	Private	Dry	252.928	0.0252928
62	8/1	Private	Dry	834.664	0.0834664
63	8/2	Private	Dry	1466.98	0.146698
64	9/1	Private	Dry	252.928	0.0252928
65	9/2	Private	Dry	784.078	0.0784078
66	9/3	Private	Dry	202.3427	0.0202343
67	Hosagrahara Railway Station	Government	Dry	505.857	0.0505857
Village: Hosagrahara					
68	1/1	Private	Dry / Garden	455.271	0.0455271
69	13	Government	Dry	3844.51	0.384451
70	139/1	Private	Wet	2124.6	0.21246
71	14	Private	Dry	101.171	0.0101171
72	140/1	Private	Wet	252.928	0.0252928
73	140/2	Private	Wet	1062.3	0.10623
74	160	Private	Wet	354.0998	0.03541
75	161	Private	Wet	354.1	0.03541
76	162	Private	Wet	505.857	0.0505857
77	17	Private	Dry	531.15	0.053115
78	170/1	Private	Dry	252.9284	0.0252928
79	171/1	Private	Dry	75.879	0.0075879
80	171/2	Private	Dry	50.586	0.0050586
81	171/7	Private	Dry	202.343	0.0202343
82	171/8	Private	Dry	126.464	0.0126464
83	171/9	Private	Dry	75.879	0.0075879
84	174/1	Private	Dry	101.171	0.0101171
85	175	Private	Dry	50.586	0.0050586
86	176/4	Private	Dry	354.1	0.03541
87	176/5	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
88	18/1	Private	Dry	505.857	0.0505857
89	18/2	Private	Dry	151.757	0.0151757
90	18/3	Private	Dry	910.542	0.0910542
91	18/4	Private	Dry	126.464	0.0126464
92	181	Private	Dry	632.321	0.0632321
93	182	Private	Dry	202.343	0.0202343
94	183	Government	Dry	252.928	0.0252928
95	191	Private	Dry	354.1	0.03541
96	194	Private	Dry	50.586	0.0050586
97	195/1	Private	Dry	75.8785	0.0075879
98	21/1	Private	Dry	202.343	0.0202343
99	21/11	Private	Dry	101.171	0.0101171
100	21/12	Private	Dry	126.464	0.0126464
101	21/2	Private	Dry	151.757	0.0151757
102	21/3	Private	NAK	202.3427	0.0202343
103	21/4	Private	Dry	126.4642	0.0126464
104	21/6	Private	Dry	101.171	0.0101171
105	21/7	Private	Dry	101.171	0.0101171
106	21/8	Private	Dry	101.1714	0.0101171
107	22/1	Private	Dry	75.879	0.0075879
108	22/10	Private	Dry	50.586	0.0050586
109	22/2	Private	Dry	75.879	0.0075879
110	22/3	Private	Dry	50.586	0.0050586
111	22/4	Private	Dry	101.171	0.0101171
112	22/5	Private	Dry	126.464	0.0126464
113	22/6	Private	Dry	151.7571	0.0151757
114	22/7	Private	Dry	126.464	0.0126464
115	22/8	Private	Dry	101.171	0.0101171
116	22/9	Private	Dry	50.586	0.0050586
117	25/1	Private	Garden	227.636	0.0227636
118	25/2	Private	Garden	101.171	0.0101171
119	25/3	Private	Garden	278.221	0.0278221
120	27	Government	Kharab	1011.71	0.101171
121	28	Private	Dry	632.321	0.0632321
122	29/1	Private	Dry	278.221	0.0278221
123	29/2	Private	NAK	25.293	0.0025293
124	3/1	Private	Dry	278.221	0.0278221
125	3/3	Private	Dry	227.636	0.0227636
126	30	Government	Kharab	252.928	0.0252928
127	4/1B	Private	Dry	227.636	0.0227636
128	4/1C	Private	Dry	328.807	0.0328807
129	4/2A	Private	Dry	328.807	0.0328807
130	4/2B	Private	NAK	303.514	0.0303514
131	5/1	Common	Dry	505.857	0.0505857
132	5/2	Private	Dry	682.907	0.0682907
133	7	Private	Dry	1644.03	0.164403
134	8/1	Private	Dry	455.271	0.0455271
135	8/2	Private	Dry	227.636	0.0227636
136	9/2	Private	NAK	429.978	0.0429978
137	Hosagrahara Railway Station	Government	Kharab	961.128	0.0961128
Village: Bommanahalli					
138	1/1	Private	Wet	126.46421	0.0126464
139	1/2	Private	Wet	632.3211	0.0632321
140	134	Private	Wet	252.92843	0.0252928
141	139	Private	Wet	1011.7137	0.101171
142	3	Private	Wet	177.0499	0.017705
143	37/3	Private	Wet	1264.6421	0.126464
144	38	Private	Wet	961.128	0.0961128
145	39/1	Private	Wet	1087.5922	0.108759
146	39/2	Private	Wet	910.5423	0.0910542
147	4/11	Private	Wet	101.17137	0.0101171
148	4/1A	Private	Wet	50.5857	0.0050586
149	4/3	Private	Wet	809.371	0.0809371
150	4/4	Private	Wet	379.3926	0.0379393
151	4/5A	Private	Wet	50.58569	0.0050586
152	4/5B	Private	Wet	101.17137	0.0101171
153	4/6	Private	wet	708.1996	0.07082
154	4/7	Private	NAK	1037.0065	0.103701
155	4/8	Private	Wet	177.0499	0.017705
156	4/9	Private	Wet	328.807	0.0328807
157	40/2	Private	Wet	126.46421	0.0126464
158	40/3	Private	Wet	101.1714	0.0101171
159	40/4	Private	Wet	151.7571	0.0151757
160	40/5	Private	Wet	607.02822	0.0607028
161	48/2A	Private	Wet	126.46421	0.0126464
162	48/4	Private	Wet	25.29284	0.0025293
163	5/3	Private	Wet	50.5857	0.0050586
164	55	Private	Wet	1062.2994	0.10623
165	56	Private	Wet	682.9067	0.0682907
166	57/1	Private	Wet	303.51411	0.0303514
167	57/2	Private	Wet	354.0998	0.03541
168	57/3	Private	Wet	303.51411	0.0303514
169	57/4	Private	Wet	303.51411	0.0303514
170	59/1	Private	Wet	1416.3992	0.14164
171	59/2	Private	Wet	404.6855	0.0404685
172	59/4	Private	Wet	657.6139	0.0657614
173	59/6	Private	Wet	278.2213	0.0278221
174	60/1	Private	Wet	455.27117	0.0455271
175	60/2	Private	Wet	227.6356	0.0227636
176	60/3	Private	Wet	227.636	0.0227636
177	61/1	Private	Wet	429.97832	0.0429978
178	61/2	Private	Wet	505.8569	0.0505857
179	62/1	Private	Wet	101.1714	0.0101171
180	62/2	Private	Wet	657.6139	0.0657614
181	62/3	Private	Wet	505.8569	0.0505857
182	62/5	Private	Wet	379.3926	0.0379393
183	64	Private	Wet	1593.4491	0.159345
184	65/1	Private	Wet	177.0499	0.017705
185	65/2	Private	Wet	202.3427	0.0202343
186	65/3	Private	Wet	202.3427	0.0202343
187	65/4	Private	Wet	75.8785	0.0075879
188	75/1	Private	Wet	126.46421	0.0126464
189	75/15	Private	Wet	328.807	0.0328807
190	75/2	Private	Wet	151.7571	0.0151757
191	75/3	Private	Wet	202.3427	0.0202343
192	75/4	Private	Wet	126.46421	0.0126464
193	75/5	Private	Wet	151.7571	0.0151757
194	76/1	Private	Wet	657.614	0.0657614
195	76/2A	Private	Wet	682.9067	0.0682907
196	76/2B	Private	Wet	25.29284	0.0025293
197	76/2C	Private	Wet	935.8352	0.0935835
198	76/3	Private	Wet	404.6855	0.0404685
Village: Chikkavaddaragundi					
199	108/1	Private	Wet	177.05	0.017705
200	111/1	Private	Wet	177.05	0.017705
201	111/3	Private	Wet	25.293	0.0025293
202	111/6	Private	Wet	101.171	0.0101171
203	13/1	Private	Wet	151.7571	0.0151757
204	13/2	Private	Wet	303.514	0.0303514
205	13/3	Private	Wet	227.636	0.0227636
206	13/4	Private	Wet	379.393	0.0379393
207	13/9	Private	Wet	50.586	0.0050586
208	14	Private	Wet	1037.01	0.103701
209	15/3A	Private	Wet	177.05	0.017705
210	15/3B	Private	Wet	505.857	0.0505857
211	15/4	Private	Wet	531.1497	0.053115
212	17	Private	Wet	657.614	0.0657614
213	18/1	Private	Wet	784.078	0.0784078
214	18/2	Private	Wet	1365.81	0.136581
215	19	Private	Wet	328.807	0.0328807
216	20/1A1	Private	Wet	252.928	0.0252928
217	20/1A2	Private	Wet	328.807	0.0328807
218	20/1B1	Common	Wet	505.857	0.0505857
219	20/1B2	Common	Wet	75.879	0.0075879
220	20/2	Private	Wet	177.05	0.017705
221	20/3	Private	Wet	126.464	0.0126464
222	21/6	Private	Wet	227.636	0.0227636
223	24/1B	Private	Dry	303.514	0.0303514
224	24/2	Private	Dry	556.442	0.0556442
225	24/3	Private	Dry	227.636	0.0227636
226	24/4A1	Private	Dry	126.464	0.0126464
227	3/8	Private	Wet	75.879	0.0075879
228	4/10	Private	Wet	1214.06	0.121406
229	4/12	Private	Wet	25.293	0.0025293
230	4/2	Private	Wet	101.171	0.0101171
231	4/4	Private	Wet	75.879	0.0075879
232	4/7	Private	Wet	75.8785	0.0075879
233	4/9	Private	Wet	25.293	0.0025293
234	5/5	Private	Wet	101.171	0.0101171
235	5/6	Private	Wet	101.171	0.0101171
236	5/7	Private	Wet	455.271	0.0455271
237	6/1	Private	Wet	328.807	0.0328807
238	6/2	Private	Wet	202.343	0.0202343
239	6/3	Private	Wet	50.586	0.0050586
240	7/2	Private	Wet	354.1	0.03541
241	7/3	Private	Wet	682.907	0.0682907
Village: Arjunahalli					
242	109	Government	Dry	1795.7918	0.179579
243	114	Private	Wet	101.1714	0.0101171
244	115	Private	Wet	910.5423	0.0910542
245	116/1	Private	Wet	632.3211	0.0632321
246	116/2	Private	Wet	379.3926	0.0379393
247	117	Private	Wet	1214.05644	0.121406
248	118	Private	Wet	1517.5706	0.151757
249	154	Government	Wet	202.3427	0.0202343
250	168/1	Private	Wet	1517.5706	0.151757
251	174	Private	Wet	328.80695	0.0328807
252	175	Private	Wet	25.29284	0.0025293
253	176/1	Private	Wet	101.17137	0.0101171
254	208	Private	Wet	1037.0065	0.103701
255	209/1	Private	Wet	25.29284	0.0025293
256	40/4	Private	Wet	101.1714	0.0101171

Next page....

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT MANGALURU DIVISION MANGALURU

Ref :PWD:MD:TND:(31E): 2025-26:JE-2 **Dated: 04.03.2026**

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Karnataka Public E-Procurement Portal) / EXTENSION / Corrigendum

With reference to this office Tender Notification No PWD:MD:JE-1TND(31E): 2025-26 dated 30.01.2026, the Indent No. **21726** shall be read as **30635** (Estimated Amount: Rs. 6020.00 Lakhs). Further, the time period for this work has been extended, and the last date for submission of tenders is fixed as **18.03.2026 (up to 5:00 PM only).** There is no changes is remaining conditions.

Tenders for the above works are invited as per the Standard Tender Document KW-4. Further details such as value of work, amount put to tender, EMD etc., can be accessed on the KPP Portal at **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Further, for more details can contact O/o, Case Worker, Executive Engineer's Office, PWD, Mangaluru Division, Mangaluru during official working hours. Contact No: 0824-2423169.

DIPR/DK/KSMCA/1705/25-26 dt.06.03.2026 **Sd/- Executive Engineer**

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli Division, Yelahanka Zone-2, MEI Layout, Bagalakunte, Hesaraghatta Main Road, Bengaluru–560073

No.: BNCC/EE/DZ/TEND/02/2025-26 **Date: 06.03.2026**

CORRIGENDUM-01

Sub: Regarding date changes in the Tender Notification.
Ref: This Office KPP Portal Tender Notification No.: BNCC/EE/DZ/TEND/07/2025-26, Date: 27.02.2026.

With reference to the above subject, tender had been invited as per the reference, due to technical reasons the tender dates have been modified as mentioned below.

Sl. No.	Particulars	As mentioned in IFT	To be Read As
1	Pre Bid meeting	06.03.2026 at 3:00 PM	**10.03.2026 at 3:00 PM**
2	Last Date & Time for Tender Quires / Clarification	06.03.2026 at 11:00 AM	**10.03.2026 at 11:00 AM**

To be read as modified above.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli Division, BNCC

SAINIK SCHOOL KODAGU (KARNATAKA)
VILLAGE – KUDIGE, KUSHALNAGAR, PIN: 571 232

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION NO : 02/ FEB 2026

1. Sainik School Kodagu, an autonomous institution functioning under Sainik Schools Society, Ministry of Defence, invites applications from the eligible candidates (Indian Citizens Only) for the Contractual posts as mentioned below:-

Ser. No.	Name of the Post	Category	No. of Posts
1	PGT (Chemistry)	ST	1
2	PGT (Physics)	UR	1
3	TGT (English)	ST	1
4	TGT (Hindi)	SC	1
5	TGT (Social Science)	OBC	1
6	Counsellor	UR	1
7	Music Teacher	UR	1
8	School Medical Officer	UR	1

2. For detailed Notification and Application Form, visit School website **www.sainikschoolkodagu.edu.in** from 07 Mar 26. The School administration reserves the right to cancel the vacancy due to administrative reasons.

Sd/- PRINCIPAL

Don't Miss
Tomorrow's DH on Sunday

DH DECCAN HERALD

BIG PICTURE
The Gen Z navigation of masculinity.

BOOKS
A tribute to the eternal charm of Gatsby.

ART & PURSUITS
Celebrating the art of Monet.

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WELLNESS
All you wanted to know about the HPV vaccine.

FOOD & DRINK
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1	2	3	4	5	6
257	40/5	Private	Wet	126.46421	0.0126464
258	40/6	Private	NAK	354.0998	0.03541
259	40/7	Private	NAK	227.6356	0.0227636
260	40/9	Private	Wet	50.585685	0.0050586
261	41/3	Private	Wet	834.6638	0.0834664
262	42/1	Private	Wet	75.87853	0.0075879
263	42/2	Private	Wet	303.51411	0.0303514
264	43	Government	Wet	657.6139	0.0657614
265	44/1	Private	Wet	252.92843	0.0252928
266	45/1	Private	Wet	227.6356	0.0227636
267	45/4	Private	Wet	177.0499	0.017705
268	46/1	Private	Wet	404.68548	0.0404685
269	47/1	Private	Wet	682.9067	0.0682907
270	47/2	Private	Wet	252.92843	0.0252928
271	48/1	Private	Wet	1163.4708	0.116347
272	49/1	Private	Wet	809.371	0.0809371
273	49/8	Private	Wet	1037.01	0.103701
274	50/1	Private	NAK	177.0499	0.017705
275	50/2	Private	Wet	177.0499	0.017705
276	50/7	Private	Wet	75.87853	0.0075879
277	52/1	Private	Wet	202.3427	0.0202343
278	52/2	Private	Wet	303.5141	0.0303514
279	53/1	Private	Wet	429.97832	0.0429978
280	53/2B	Private	Wet	379.3926	0.0379393
281	54/1	Private	Wet	25.29284	0.0025293
282	54/2	Private	Wet	607.02822	0.0607028
283	56/1	Private	Wet	480.564	0.0480564
284	56/3	Private	Wet	404.6855	0.0404685
285	57/1	Private	Wet	177.0499	0.017705
286	57/2	Private	Wet	303.51411	0.0303514
287	57/3	Private	Wet	303.51411	0.0303514
288	58	Private	Wet	202.3427	0.0202343
289	59/1	Private	Wet	531.15	0.053115
290	59/2	Private	Wet	101.171	0.0101171
291	60/1	Private	Wet	50.58569	0.0050586
292	60/3	Private	Wet	581.7354	0.0581735
293	60/4	Private	Wet	227.6356	0.0227636
294	62/4	Private	Wet	581.7354	0.0581735
295	63/1	Private	Wet	303.51411	0.0303514
296	63/2	Private	Wet	252.92843	0.0252928
297	64/1	Private	Wet	202.3427	0.0202343
298	64/2	Private	NAK	177.0499	0.017705
299	64/5	Private	Wet	202.3427	0.0202343
300	65/5	Private	Wet	657.6139	0.0657614
301	94/1	Private	Wet	252.92843	0.0252928
302	94/2	Private	Wet	202.3427	0.0202343
303	95/1	Private	Wet	202.3427	0.0202343
304	95/2	Private	Wet	227.6356	0.0227636
305	96/1	Private	Wet	885.2495	0.088525
306	97/1	Private	Wet	227.6356	0.0227636
307	97/2	Private	NAK	328.807	0.0328807
308	98/3	Private	Wet	75.87853	0.0075879
309	98/4	Private	Wet	581.7354	0.0581735
Taluk: SALIGRAMA					
Village: Guluvinattiguppe					
310	114	Private	Dry	809.371	0.0809371
311	115	Government	Dry	531.14969	0.053115
312	117	Private	Dry	1163.4708	0.116347
313	119	Common	Dry	14619.263	1.46193
314	178/2	Private	Dry	455.2712	0.0455271
315	178/3	Private	NAK	126.46421	0.0126464
316	178/5	Private	NAK	151.7571	0.0151757
317	178/6	Private	Dry	25.2928	0.0025293
318	178/7	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
Village: Arakere					
319	26/11	Private	Dry	126.4642	0.0126464
320	26/12	Private	Dry	151.757	0.0151757
321	26/13	Private	Dry	177.05	0.017705
322	26/15	Private	Dry	75.879	0.0075879
323	35/1	Private	Dry	632.321	0.0632321
324	35/12	Private	Dry	379.393	0.0379393
325	35/2	Private	Dry	252.928	0.0252928
326	35/3	Private	Dry	708.2	0.07082
327	37/1	Private	Dry	328.807	0.0328807
328	37/2	Private	Dry	278.221	0.0278221
329	42	Common	Dry	5058.57	0.505857
330	43	Government	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
331	45/5	Private	Dry	252.928	0.0252928
332	45/8	Private	Dry	252.928	0.0252928
333	45/9	Private	Dry	227.636	0.0227636
334	46/1	Private	Dry	303.514	0.0303514
335	46/2	Private	NAK	632.321	0.0632321
336	46/3	Private	Dry	607.028	0.0607028
337	47/1	Private	Dry	455.271	0.0455271
338	47/2	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
339	47/4	Private	Dry	75.879	0.0075879
340	47/5	Private	Dry	177.05	0.017705
341	57	Common	Dry	4451.54	0.445154
342	68/4	Private	Dry	227.636	0.0227636
343	71/1	Private	Dry	151.757	0.0151757
344	71/2	Private	Dry	480.564	0.0480564
345	71/3	Private	Dry	303.514	0.0303514
346	74	Private	Dry	885.25	0.088525
347	75	Private	Dry	404.685	0.0404685
348	76	Private	Dry	1315.23	0.131523
349	79	Government	Dry	1745.21	0.174521
350	82	Private	Dry	505.857	0.0505857
351	87	Private	Dry	227.636	0.0227636
352	89	Government	Dry	177.05	0.017705
Village: Munjanahalli					
353	28	Private	Garden	404.68548	0.0404685
354	29/1	Private	Dry	75.8785	0.0075879
355	29/2	Private	Dry	708.1996	0.07082
356	29/3	Private	Dry	303.5141	0.0303514
357	29/4	Private	Dry	101.17137	0.0101171
358	29/5	Private	Dry	227.6356	0.0227636
359	29/6	Private	Dry	556.442	0.0556442
360	29/7	Private	Dry	328.80695	0.0328807
361	30/3B	Private	Dry / Garden	1264.6421	0.126464
362	31/10	Private	Dry	126.46421	0.0126464
363	31/11	Private	Dry	75.87853	0.0075879
364	31/12	Private	Dry	50.58569	0.0050586
365	31/7	Private	Dry	75.87853	0.0075879
366	31/8	Private	Dry	25.29284	0.0025293
367	63/1	Private	Dry	101.17137	0.0101171
368	63/2	Private	Dry	101.17137	0.0101171
369	63/5	Private	Dry	101.17137	0.0101171
370	63/6	Private	Dry	75.87853	0.0075879
Village: Valagerehalli					
371	10/10	Private	Dry	25.29284	0.0025293
372	10/9	Private	Dry	3540.998	0.3541
373	13/2	Private	Dry	101.1714	0.0101171
374	13/3	Private	Dry	379.3936	0.0379394
375	14/4	Private	Dry	1896.9632	0.189696
376	15/1	Private	Dry	1846.3775	0.184638
377	15/2	Private	Dry	2175.1845	0.217518
378	16	Private	Dry	1087.5922	0.108759
379	17/1	Private	Dry	227.6356	0.0227636
380	17/2	Private	Dry	252.92843	0.0252928
381	17/3	Private	Dry	252.92843	0.0252928
382	17/4	Private	Dry	252.92843	0.0252928
383	17/5	Private	Dry	1289.935	0.128993
384	17/6	Private	Dry	1871.603	0.18716
385	18/6	Private	Dry	935.8352	0.0935835
386	19/2	Private	Dry	379.3926	0.0379393
387	19/3	Private	Dry	935.8352	0.0935835
388	19/4	Private	Dry	227.6356	0.0227636
389	19/5	Private	Dry	151.7571	0.0151757
390	19/6	Private	Dry	151.7571	0.0151757
391	22/2	Private	Dry	252.92843	0.0252928
392	22/21	Private	Dry	202.3427	0.0202343
393	22/22	Private	Dry	177.0499	0.017705
394	22/23	Private	Dry	75.87853	0.0075879
395	23/2	Private	Dry	252.92843	0.0252928
396	23/4	Private	NAK	202.3427	0.0202343
397	23/5	Private	Dry	303.51411	0.0303514
398	23/7	Private	Dry	177.0499	0.017705
399	26/2	Private	Garden	25.29284	0.0025293
400	26/3	Private	Garden	75.8785	0.0075879
401	27	Government	Dry	809.371	0.0809371
402	28/1	Private	Dry	379.3926	0.0379393
403	28/2	Private	Dry	809.371	0.0809371
404	28/3	Private	Dry	531.1497	0.053115
405	28/4	Private	Dry	101.1714	0.0101171
406	28/5	Private	Dry	404.6855	0.0404685
407	28/6	Private	Dry	784.07812	0.0784078
408	29/10	Private	Dry	25.29284	0.0025293
409	29/11	Private	Dry	404.6855	0.0404685
410	29/3	Private	Dry	202.3427	0.0202343
411	32	Private	NAK	354.0998	0.03541
412	33/6	Private	Dry	101.1714	0.0101171
413	5/10	Private	Dry	151.7571	0.0151757
414	5/11	Private	Dry	480.564	0.0480564
415	5/12	Private	Dry	202.3427	0.0202343
416	5/2A	Private	Dry	455.2712	0.0455271
417	5/2B	Private	Dry	303.51411	0.0303514
418	5/3	Private	Dry	455.2712	0.0455271
419	6/3	Private	Dry	632.3211	0.0632321
420	6/9	Private	Dry	632.3211	0.0632321
421	7/1	Private	Dry	505.8569	0.0505857
422	7/2A	Private	Phut Kharab	708.1996	0.07082
423	7/2B	Private	Dry	252.92843	0.0252928
424	7/3	Private	Dry	252.92843	0.0252928
425	8/1	Private	Dry	6525.5534	0.652555
426	8/2	Private	Dry	2782.2127	0.278221
427	9/1	Private	Dry	6702.6033	0.67026
428	9/3	Private	Dry	354.0998	0.03541
429	9/4	Private	Dry	354.0998	0.03541
Village: Somanahalli					
430	10/1	Private	Dry	2074.0131	0.207401
431	10/18	Private	Dry	885.2495	0.088525
432	10/2	Private	Dry	935.8352	0.0935835
433	10/3	Private	Dry	1011.7137	0.101171
434	10/4	Private	Dry	1037.0065	0.103701
435	10/5	Private	Dry	1365.81	0.136581
436	11/1	Private	Dry	3161.6053	0.316161
437	11/10	Private	Dry	910.5423	0.0910542
438	11/11	Private	Dry	809.371	0.080937
439	11/2	Private	Dry	227.6356	0.0227636
440	11/9	Private	Dry	1214.05644	0.121406
441	12/1	Private	Dry	1340.5207	0.134052
442	12/2	Private	Dry	1365.8135	0.136581
443	12/3	Private	Dry	1568.1562	0.156816
444	12/4	Private	Dry	1391.1063	0.139111
445	13	Government	Dry	7941.9525	0.794195
446	2/2	Private	Dry	4881.5186	0.488152
447	3/1	Private	Dry	2478.6986	0.24787
448	3/2	Private	Dry	1972.8417	0.197284
449	3/3	Private	Dry	4527.4188	0.452742
450	31/3	Private	Dry	50.58569	0.0050586
451	31/4	Private	NAK	1669.3276	0.166933
452	31/5	Private	NAK	2579.8699	0.257987
453	32/1	Private	Dry	3970.9763	0.397098
454	32/2	Private	Dry	1896.96	0.189696
455	5/10	Private	Dry	809.371	0.0809371
456	5/11	Private	Dry	708.1996	0.07082
457	5/12	Private	Dry	227.6356	0.0227636
458	5/27	Private	Dry	50.58569	0.0050586
459	5/6	Private	Dry	126.46421	0.0126464
460	5/7	Private	Dry	1568.1562	0.156816
461	5/8	Private	Dry	1214.0564	0.121406
462	5/9	Private	Dry	1163.4708	0.116347
463	57/1	Private	Dry	6247.3321	0.624733
Village: Bherya					
464	39	Private	Dry	3085.7268	0.308573
465	67/2B	Private	Dry	354.0998	0.03541
Village: Batiganahalli					
466	16/2	Private	Garden	50.58569	0.0050586
467	16/3	Private	Garden	151.7571	0.0151757
468	16/6	Private	Dry	1315.2278	0.131523
469	16/7	Private	Dry	607.02822	0.0607028
470	16/8	Private	Dry	708.1996	0.07082
471	17	Private	Dry	5488.5468	0.548855
472	18	Private	Dry	429.9783	0.0429978
473	19/1	Private	Dry	50.5857	0.0050586
474	19/2	Private	Dry	151.7571	0.0151757
475	19/3	Private	Dry	4755.0544	0.475505
476	19/4	Private	Dry	556.442	0.0556442
477	19/5	Private	Dry	1188.7636	0.118876
478	19/6	Private	Dry	556.4425	0.0556442
479	21/10	Private	Dry	278.22127	0.0278221
480	21/11	Private	Garden	1315.2278	0.131523
481	21/2	Private	Garden	682.9067	0.0682907
482	21/3	Private	Garden	657.6139	0.0657614
483	21/5	Private	Garden	1214.0564	0.121406
484	21/6	Private	Dry/Garden	1365.8135	0.136581
485	21/7	Private	Dry	25.29284	0.0025293
486	21/9	Private	Dry/Garden	2731.627	0.273163
487	54	Common	Dry	17426.7685	1.74268
488	59/3A	Private	Dry	1037.0065	0.103701
489	59/3B	Government	Phut Kharab	961.12802	0.0961128
490	59/3C	Private	Dry	859.957	0.0859957
491	59/4A	Private	Dry	50.5857	0.0050586
492	59/4B	Government	Phut Kharab	328.80695	0.0328807
493	59/4C	Private	Dry	3389.2409	0.338924
494	59/7	Private	Dry	354.0998	0.03541
495	59/8	Private	Dry	1593.4491	0.159345
496	59/9	Private	Dry	1264.6421	0.126464
497	60/1	Private	Dry	1188.7636	0.118876
498	60/3	Private	Dry	2124.5988	0.21246
499	60/4	Private	Dry	25.29284	0.0025293
500	60/5	Private	Dry	303.5141	0.0303514
501	60/6	Private	Dry	1315.2278	0.131523
502	61/2C	Private	Dry	834.6638	0.0834664
503	61/3A	Private	Dry	505.8569	0.0505857
504	61/3B	Private	Dry	328.807	0.0328807
505	61/4A	Private	Dry	986.4209	0.0986421
506	61/4B	Private	Dry	1315.2278	0.131523
507	61/5A	Private	Dry	607.02822	0.0607028
508	61/5B	Private	Dry	1138.1779	0.113818
509	62/1	Private	Dry	7360.2172	0.736022
510	62/2	Private	Dry	758.7853	0.0758785
511	75/1	Private	Dry	25.29284	0.0025293
512	75/5	Private	Dry	682.9067	0.0682907
				Total	**36.2724681**

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SHAIKH AMINKHAN, Director

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Growth push meets fiscal caution

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's 17th Budget, presented on Friday, is a landmark in more ways than one. It is the highest number of budgets presented by any leader in the state and comes with the largest outlay in Karnataka's history – Rs 4.48 lakh crore. The contrast with his first budget as Finance Minister in 1994-95, which had an outlay of just Rs 12,000 crore, underlines Karnataka's dramatic transformation over the past three decades into one of India's most dynamic economic centres. The backdrop to this budget is a reasonably strong economic performance. Last year's balanced growth across sectors – services (8.1%), industry (6.7%), and agriculture (9.1%) – pushed the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) growth to 8.1%, higher than the national growth rate of 7.4%. However, fiscal pressures loom behind this rosy picture, with flagship guarantee schemes consuming over Rs 1.21 lakh crore since 2023. The revenue deficit is estimated at Rs 22,957 crore. The fiscal deficit is projected at 2.95% of the GSDP, while total liabilities are estimated at 24.94% of the GSDP. Both figures remain technically within the limits prescribed under the Karnataka Fiscal Responsibility Act. However, they are also uncomfortably close to those thresholds, suggesting the state's fiscal headroom is narrowing.

Siddaramaiah's record budget envisions a growth-guarantees balance amid tightening state finances

At the policy level, the budget outlines an ambitious development vision built around what Siddaramaiah calls the "11G model": Guarantee Economy, Good Public Education, Good Health to All, Grassroots Economy, Good Governance, Gig Economy, Geographical Equality, Global Trade Economy, Globe-trotting Economy, Green Economy, and Growing Urban Economy. Taken together, these pillars are meant to touch every major sector of the state's economy, while also positioning Karnataka as a globally competitive economic hub. The budget also seeks to address the long-standing imbalance between the capital and the rest of the state through an industrial strategy that emphasises a "Beyond Bengaluru" growth model. Infrastructure creation, employment generation, and agricultural productivity receive continued focus, reflecting an effort to spread growth more evenly across regions and sectors.

Given the constraints of committed expenditure – guarantee schemes, salaries, pensions, and debt servicing – Siddaramaiah had limited leeway for manoeuvre. Yet he has resisted the politically tempting route of raising taxes or imposing new levies. This budget is, therefore, less about a bold fiscal reset or dramatic policy shifts and more about sustaining economic momentum while keeping the state's finances within manageable limits. In that sense, Siddaramaiah has delivered a carefully balanced, feel-good budget that combines welfare commitments with a blueprint for long-term growth.

Industrial accidents: The cost of apathy

Four accidents in a week – two blasts in two explosives manufacturing units and gas leaks in two separate chemical units – expose, yet again, the low safety standards and inadequate regulatory oversight in India's industrial units. At least 47 people were killed in the two explosions and over 2,600 people, including 1,600 school students, were evacuated following a gas leak. It is reported that the blast at the fireworks unit in Vetlapalem in Andhra Pradesh occurred while workers were mixing chemicals. The blast killed 27 people, mostly women, and 20 people, 19 of them women, died in a blast in a mining and industrial explosives factory near Nagpur in Maharashtra. The cause is yet to be ascertained. An investigation is tracing the leakage of hazardous oleum gas from a chemical unit in Palghar near Mumbai. Five workers were hospitalised after an ammonia gas leakage from the Amul milk plant in the Palghar area on Tuesday.

The common thread in these mishaps is a failure to follow safety protocols and negligence across operational levels. Accidents at fireworks units are typically followed by claims about implementing preventive measures, but recurring mishaps evidence poor adherence. Workers in these units are typically untrained, and most of them are women and children, whose labour comes cheap. Compensation for workers involved in the accidents remains low. Minor accidents are not even reported. Last year, an official committee was appointed after an accident in another fireworks unit in Andhra Pradesh run by the owners of the Vetlapalem unit. The management's choice to ignore the committee's recommendations for a series of safety protocols tells a story of criminal apathy.

Recurring blasts and gas leaks expose a system where oversight is poor and negligence is normalised

Most of the workers at the unit in Maharashtra were also untrained, and many of them were women. The area, which houses other explosives manufacturing units, has reported the death of 43 workers in accidents in the last 18 months. According to the Directorate General Factory Advice Service and Labour Institutes, an average of three worker deaths happen every day in the country because of accidents. The Palghar district administration did well to evacuate thousands of people from the affected areas immediately after the oleum leak. The ammonia leak is the sixth incident of gas leakage in the Palghar-Virar industrial area in the last 12 months. Accidents will continue to happen unless unit owners, workers, and authorities adopt a strong safety culture, and non-compliance comes at a cost.

A MISSED OPPORTUNITY?

AI summit: Broad consensus, soft impact

Despite wider participation, the New Delhi declaration failed to push human-centric safeguards and linguistic diversity

SHASHANK MOHAN AND JHALAK M KAKKAR

Beyond the regular fanfare that accompanies tech CEOs and heads of state when they descend on a city, the India AI Impact Summit saw wide participation across stakeholders, announcements of big investments, and a Summit declaration signed by 91 governments, including the United States, the United Kingdom, and China. While these are numerically more signatures than the previous three summits, the text is weaker as it hinges on 'voluntary and non-binding' commitments.

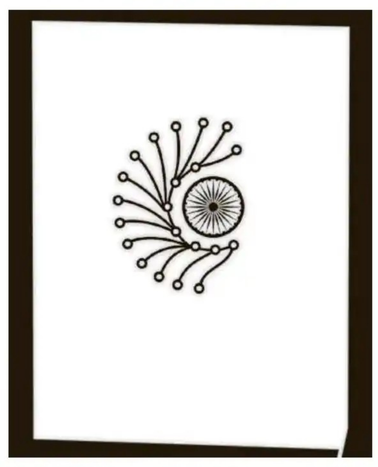
This was the fourth in a series of global AI summits; the previous editions were held in Bletchley, Seoul, and Paris. These summits are forums for international coordination on AI governance and play a crucial role in deciding the future agenda.

The India AI Impact Summit, the first in the Global South, was a pivotal moment for spearheading AI governance discussions and setting an agenda that represented the needs of the region. In a world where a few global corporations, mostly in the Global North, control significant resources for building AI technologies, the Indian government took critical strides in placing democratic access and AI sovereignty on the table.

In line with previous summits, the main declaration rightfully recognises the importance of international cooperation and multistakeholder engagement in global AI governance. The declaration is framed around seven themes identified by the Impact Summit: democratising AI resources, economic growth and social good, secure and trusted AI, science, access for social empowerment, human capital, and resilience, innovation, and efficiency. Across these themes, there is significant emphasis on AI diffusion (spreading use of AI), 'voluntary and non-binding' frameworks, and international collaboration.

While the Summit witnessed inclusive participation, the declaration was decided and shaped by nation-states with limited engagement and input from civil society and academia. Building towards a wide consensus across States in this fraught geopolitical moment has clearly resulted in a weakened document that relies on voluntary commitments that don't meaningfully safeguard the most vulnerable groups in the Global South. Reflecting on the outcomes of these summits provides a view into changing priorities on global AI governance.

Users in the Global South will feel higher and more significant impacts of AI (both positive and negative) and it is crucial that we build a human-centric approach that enables user safety. Last year, India co-chaired the Paris AI Summit with France which emphasised a



human rights-based, human-centric, ethical, safe, secure and trustworthy deployment of AI technologies in its final statement. In the New Delhi declaration, despite focusing on 'benefits to humanity', there is no emphasis on human-centric fundamental freedoms, or rights-based approaches to AI, a language found in all previous Summit declarations. Even the phrase 'human-centric' appears only in the Prime Minister's opening address and not the declaration.

To safeguard the interests of the Global South, India should have carried forward this language from the previous declarations into the final consensus-driven document.

Leading the Global South

India has consistently championed linguistic diversity as a primary goal of its AI governance strategy to enable the inclusion of a diverse set of users and bridge the digital divide. Without Indian languages forming part of the input data for popular AI models, they will remain inaccessible to a large section of society. At the Impact Summit, India released a voluntary commitment, agreed upon by domestic and global AI companies, on strengthening multilingual evaluations for the availability of AI systems across languages, cultural contexts, and use cases. But curiously, unlike the Paris and Seoul AI summits, the New Delhi declaration contains no reference to linguistic diversity. This seems to be a missed opportunity for India to demonstrate its leadership as a multilingual Global South nation.

Right before the India Impact Summit, India amended rules under the IT Act relating to synthetically generated content (deepfakes) that harm women and children. But again, unlike Paris and Seoul, the New Delhi declaration does not lay down guardrails on gender or child safety, diversity, and equality. This is puzzling as the moment to acknowledge AI-related harms specifically on children was ripe given the global momentum around child safety in various regions including Australia, Brazil, China, the European Union, France, Germany, the UK, and the US.

This is particularly glaring, given India had an expert engagement group focused on child safety in AI in the run-up to the Summit.

The lasting image from the India AI Impact Summit is that of tech CEOs with the Indian Prime Minister in a show of strength. While it's commendable for India to showcase its partnership with industry, a more symbolic image of India's push for AI sovereignty and democratising access to AI would have been heads of state from the Global South coming together in solidarity.

South-South alliances like that with Brazil help centre the needs of our communities over geopolitical rhetoric. Later this year, India has an opportunity to spotlight the needs of users from the Global South in key global governance forums such as the UN AI Global Dialogue and the BRICS Summit, and demonstrate meaningful Global South leadership. These present crucial opportunities for India to push for bolder demands on multilingual access, equitable access to rare earth minerals, gender and child safety and diversity, and charting a 'third-way' for AI governance. Here, India should demonstrate true Global South leadership.

(Shashank is the Associate Director and Jhalak is the Executive Director of the Centre for Communication Governance at National Law University Delhi)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Two left feet, one happy Holi

My dance can knock people off their feet, quite literally

ROHINI S MURTHY

Holi is not just a festival of colours; it is a training ground for amateur dancers like me. My husband and I were in two minds about attending a Holi party organised by our community. But when close friends cajoled us to join them, we hopped into our car and drove over to the venue. As soon as we entered the arena, the festive spirit was unmistakable—a riot of colours, food, music and a DJ setting the tone for the day.

We were a group of three couples. After smearing colours on each other's faces and exchanging cheerful greetings, the men chose to sit and chit-chat while we—their better halves—rushed enthusiastically toward the dance floor. The two ladies who accompanied me wasted no time in proving that they were better dancers than yours truly. Their hands and legs moved in perfect tandem with the rhythm of the music, while I tried to match their grace rather awkwardly.

Here, I must confess that I have remained an amateur dancer for most of my life despite learning Bharatanatyam during my school days. However, my inability to dance well has never stopped me from twirling. My feeble attempts to shake a leg not only lack grace, but they also have the power to knock someone off their feet—and I am hinting at the physical impact rather than the emotional one.

My frantic swinging of arms and legs in the name of dance can startle even the most stoic dancers. I guess people were quick enough to notice my peculiar prancing because the tiny circle that we three ladies had formed suddenly expanded in size. Though I remained completely unflustered about my so-called dance moves, I was in awe of the many talented people around me who could perfectly mimic the steps of popular film stars like Hrithik Roshan and Prabhu Deva. "Why can't I dance like them?" was certainly not the thought that crossed my mind, as I have no qualms about admitting that I have two left feet. For the uninitiated, it's a metaphoric expression for a person who is clumsy and stumbles while dancing.

However, good music with great beats invariably beckons me to dance even if there is no dance floor. Recently, I found myself moving my arms up and down and tapping my feet vigorously to a peppy Hindi song—and mind you, I was doing this inside a moving car, much to the amusement of my husband and son. "This car floor will either crack open or some passer-by will have a hearty laugh looking at your actions," my husband remarked. Despite such observations, I continue to stay true to my motto—Have Feet Will Dance, albeit badly!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

India should strengthen the call for peace

As the conflict between Israel, the US, and Iran escalates, the safety of over 85,000 people of Indian origin and 20,000 Indian workers in the construction and caregiving sectors is a pressing concern. Some of these workers may have families with them. Amid the unverified news and propaganda on social media, factual reporting is scarce. The prime minister and the foreign minister should persist with their efforts to end the war, rather than making just a single call. PM Narendra Modi, whom US Pesident Donald Trump has called a good friend, should leverage this relationship to reason with him and end the armed conflict. The closure of the Strait of Hormuz will soon impact oil and gas supplies, and exports to the Gulf countries are already facing disruptions. The government should use all means and contacts to call for an end to this war.
Hemachandra Basappa, Bengaluru

Respect war protocols

Iran has requested Sri Lanka to send back the bodies of sailors from the destroyed frigate *IRIS Dena*. Though fears of another US torpedo attack exist, such a strike is unlikely due to humanitarian norms. However, US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth's remark shows the US' tough stance. The UN should ensure restraint and respect for war protocols in this escalating conflict.
R S Narula, Patiala

Politics vs diplomacy

I refer to 'A necessary reset for India, Canada' (March 6). The strained ties between India and Canada show how fragile international relations can become when politics overshadows diplomacy. Shared economic, educational, and people-to-people connections make dialogue and mutual respect essential for stability and protecting citizens' interests.
Kalathil Aarushi, Bengaluru

Ensure accountability

Apropos 'Textbook case: Criticism or contempt?' (Mar 5), the NCERT's withdrawal of a Class 8 lesson raises questions about transparency in education. Can institutions openly discuss challenges like judicial corruption and backlog? The need for transparency, accountability and a corruption-free judiciary is highlighted. Institutions must present facts and promote transparency, ensuring the judiciary remains accountable.
P V Prakash, Mumbai

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

We have successfully revived UP from the grip of crime and made it a developed state. I firmly believe that the first step towards development is safety.
Yogi Adityanath, UP CM

Crime does not pay as well as politics.
Alfred Newman

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

When empires roar, literature whispers

Anti-war novels talk to human conscience, preserving lives as stories beyond statistics and political narratives

ADITYA MUKHERJEE

With the United States-Israel attack on Iran, and with the grinding war in Ukraine entering its fourth year, one is compelled to ask an old, aching question: why are anti-war novels written at all? If bombs continue to fall, if cities are reduced to silhouettes of smoke, if children still learn the vocabulary of sirens before they learn the alphabet, what have these books achieved? Do they matter in a world where war rooms appear to have drowned out reading rooms?

Take, for instance, *Red Birds* (2018) by Mohammed Hanif, which uncannily mirrors the realities of military intervention in the Middle East. A US pilot on a bombing mission crashes his plane in the desert and finds himself stranded near the very refugee camp he was meant to destroy. Through dark satire, Hanif reveals the tragic absurdity and human cost of foreign strikes and endless war.

Consider *All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Maria Remarque. Published in 1929, it did not stop the Second World War. It did not prevent the rise of fascism. But it stripped war of its romance with such unflinching honesty that it unsettled an entire generation. Through Paul Bäumer's weary eyes, we see boys turned into old men in uniform, their youth consumed by mud, lice, and the mechanised indifference of artillery. The novel reveals that beneath the rhetoric of honour lies a graveyard of wasted possibility.

In *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, Ernest Hemingway explores the moral complexity of war. There are no immaculate heroes. Even those fighting for a just cause are capable of cruelty. The novel suggests that war erodes moral certainty; it forces individuals into choices where every option carries blood on its hands. Hemingway also dismantles romanticism. Love blooms between Robert Jordan and Maria, but it exists in the shadow of imminent death. The tenderness does not redeem the violence; it merely makes the loss sharper. The title itself underscores the central truth: no death in war is isolated. Every casualty diminishes us collectively.

And who can forget *Slaughterhouse-Five* by Kurt Vonnegut? Vonnegut survived the firebombing of Dresden, one of the most devastating episodes of the Second World War. In his novel, time fractures, reality bends, and the refrain "So it goes" follows every death like a numb whisper. The fragmentation of the narrative mirrors the fragmentation of the human psyche under bombardment. Vonnegut does not sermonise; he mourns. And in that mourning, he reminds us that war does not merely kill bodies – it dislocates time, memory, and meaning itself.

If these books did not prevent subsequent wars – from Vietnam to Iraq, from Gaza to Ukraine – what, then, have they accomplished? They have ensured that the dead are not reduced to statistics.

When headlines speak of "collateral damage," literature restores names, faces, and inner lives. When political leaders speak of "strategic objectives," novels ask what becomes of the mother searching through rubble, of the child who flinches at every loud sound, of the soldier who returns home carrying invisible shrapnel in his mind. In the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, as cities change hands and trenches carve the earth anew, it is easy to become desensitised. Numbers numb us. Fiction resensitises us.

Writing as resistance

Anti-war novels also perform a subtler function: they expose the language of war. Every conflict arrives draped in euphemism – "surgical strikes," "defensive action," "pre-emptive measures." Literature peels away these linguistic veils. It insists that beneath every abstraction lies blood. Beneath every speech about sovereignty or security lies a human cost no victory parade can fully conceal.

Yes, it may be true that those who orchestrate wars seldom pause to read novels that critique them. Power rarely seeks self-indictment. But anti-war literature is not addressed only to generals and presidents. It is addressed to citizens – to us. Democracies do not drift into war solely because leaders decree it; they drift because societies consent, because outrage is muted, because imagination fails. A novel rekindles that imagination.

In that sense, anti-war novels are acts of resistance. They resist amnesia. They resist propaganda. They resist the seductive simplicity of "us versus them." They remind us that war, however dressed up, is a failure of imagination and empathy before it is a failure of diplomacy. Missiles may still be launched. Borders may still be contested. The war in Ukraine may drag on, and tensions in West Asia may escalate. But as long as anti-war novels are read, the conscience of humanity is not entirely silenced.

(The writer is a Delhi-based journalist)

Discharge in the liquor policy case has thrown the beleaguered party a lifeline. It remains to be seen whether it can grab this opportunity

Taint gone, can AAP regain its mojo?

SUMIT PANDE
DH NEWS SERVICE

Ahead of the 2015 Delhi Assembly polls, the muffler-man image makeover of a wheezing, coughing Arvind Kejriwal into a broom-in-hand anti-corruption crusader was first articulated through a poster inspired by a dark-fantasy Hollywood film, Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Returns.

The transformation, from activist to politician, stood the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in good stead for 10 years, giving the insurgent political startup two consecutive terms in office in Delhi and a mammoth victory in Punjab in 2022.

But sustaining power is far more complex than its acquisition. Politically and legally, the Delhi excise policy case was the biggest challenge AAP faced in its decade-and-a-half of existence. Coupled with allegations of exorbitant expenditure incurred by the AAP government in the renovation of the Delhi CM's residence, Kejriwal lost the plot in the 2025 Delhi Assembly polls, failing to retain even his own seat.

The AAP convenor, who, with fellow CM from Punjab Bhagwant Mann, would jet-set across the country to participate in the I.N.D.I.A alliance meeting, was grounded in one fell swoop. Almost a year into hibernation, the redemption has now come in the form of discharge in the excise policy case. Ergo, the future of AAP, and particularly its leader, Arvind Kejriwal, begs a few questions.

To analyse AAP and its stunning rise in Indian politics, one has to capture, with a wide-angle lens, the political milieu at the end of the first decade of the new millennium.

Public trust in the state and its agencies was abysmally low. Both elected leaders in liberal Western democracies and authoritarian regimes, ringfenced by cabals in different measures and contexts, were blighted by corruption. Discredited, they grasped for political legitimacy, offering vast space for anyone willing to rush in.

Occupy Wall Street protests in the US emerged out of the subprime crisis. In 2010, protests in Tunisia against three decades of dictatorship were triggered by the self-immolation of a street vendor.

The insurgent political movement in Western Europe also emerged out of the growing frustration and disappointment with conventional politics.

In Italy, Beppe Grillo, a comedian, formed the Five-Star Movement to secure 25% of the votes in the 2013 elections. In Spain, the anti-austerity party, Podemos (Spanish: We Can) was founded in 2013 by a professor of political science. In two years, it was able to capture almost 21% of the popular vote in general elections.

Like AAP, most of these political movements thrived on general apathy towards rigid and impervious power structures, growing economic disparity, and corruption.

AAP emerged from the Anna Hazare-led India Against Corruption movement. Like others in the league, though low on resources, it was nimble on its feet to optimise the use of new connective action plans in the digital world to communicate with the people, while the legacy parties continued to rely on traditional collective mechanisms for political mobilisations.

AAP, Podemos, and Five Star were all 'outsiders' which had entered the fray to cleanse the systemic rot. After 10 years in power, how do people perceive them? 'Outsiders' or part of the same political system?

Ten years ago, when Kejriwal and his associates picked up the broom to start a unique experiment in Indian politics, the Congress was up against 10 years of anti-incumbency at the Centre. This was further compounded by 15 years of Sheila Dikshit's rule in the national capital.

In the Delhi Assembly polls, AAP was the immediate beneficiary of the anti-Congress sentiment. Across the country, the BJP, which had both organisational and political depth to capitalise on the anger against the Congress, benefited the most.

The Congress was the loser in both cases.

Which is why Congress's Pawan Khera, the media advisor to Sheila Dikshit, was quick to react to Kejriwal's discharge in the excise policy case. It's an attempt to weaken the Congress in Punjab and Gujarat, he alleged, by reviving AAP to split anti-BJP votes.

A SWEEPING STATEMENT

Kejriwal's AAP rose on the back of general apathy towards rigid and impervious power structures, growing economic disparity and corruption

1 Founded on **November 26, 2012,** after Anna Hazare's anti-corruption movement

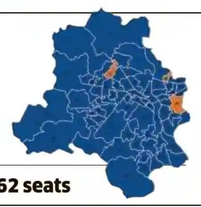
2 Fights its first Delhi Assembly elections in **December 2013**

3 Emerges second; on **December 28, 2013,** forms government with the Congress' outside support

4 49 days later, on **February 14, 2014,** Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal resigns after Lokpal Bill is stalled by the BJP and the Congress in the Assembly

5 Fights Lok Sabha polls in over 400 seats; **wins four in Punjab,** none in Delhi

6 Wins the **2015** Delhi Assembly polls, secures 67 of the 70 seats



7 Contests the **2019 Lok Sabha polls,** wins just one seat; is defeated in all seven Delhi seats

8 Retains Delhi in 2020 Assembly elections, **winning 62 seats**

9 Wins Punjab Assembly polls in 2022, securing **92 of the 117 seats**

10 AAP becomes a national party in **April 2023**

11 Joins I.N.D.I.A. bloc in 2023-2024

12 Fights 2024 Lok Sabha polls in alliance with **Congress in Delhi, fails to win a seat**

13 Fights Delhi Assembly polls outside I.N.D.I.A. bloc, **loses to the BJP**

AAP MPs

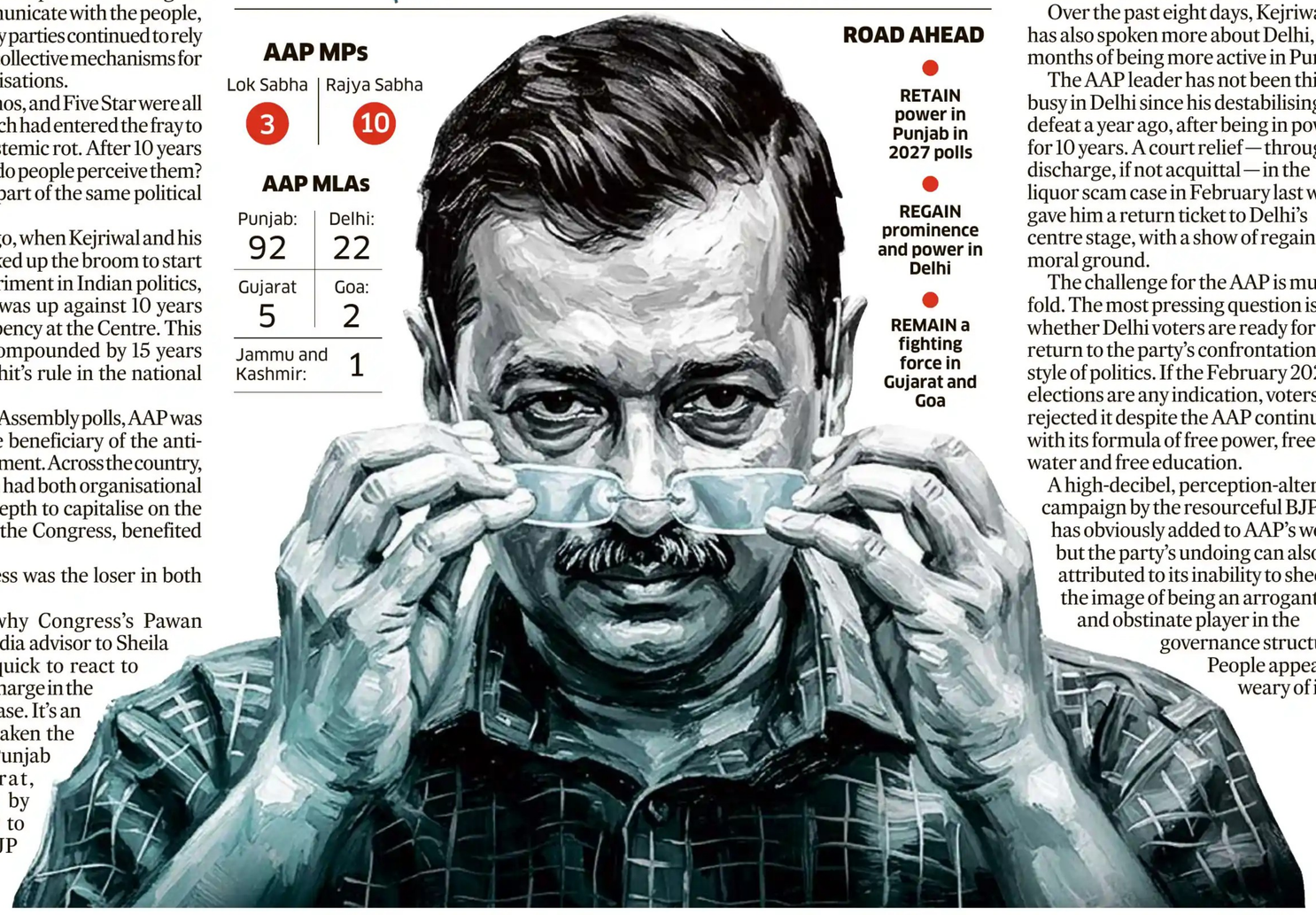
Lok Sabha	Rajya Sabha
3	10

AAP MLAs

Punjab: 92	Delhi: 22
Gujarat 5	Goa: 2
Jammu and Kashmir: 1	

ROAD AHEAD

- **RETAIN** power in Punjab in 2027 polls
- **REGAIN** prominence and power in Delhi
- **REMAIN** a fighting force in Gujarat and Goa



Why Kejriwal must rewrite his politics

SHEMIN JOY
DH NEWS SERVICE

On February 27, Arvind Kejriwal addressed a press conference. The following day, he was at the Hanuman Temple in Connaught Place, a place he visits before any significant political or personal event. On March 2, he was at Jantar Mantar, addressing a rally.

Two days later, he joined his close aide Manish Sisodia at his residence for much-publicised Holi celebrations. On Friday, he appeared before an Assembly committee with much fanfare.

Over the past eight days, Kejriwal has also spoken more about Delhi, after months of being more active in Punjab.

The AAP leader has not been this busy in Delhi since his destabilising defeat a year ago, after being in power for 10 years. A court relief — through discharge, if not acquittal — in the liquor scam case in February last week gave him a return ticket to Delhi's centre stage, with a show of regaining moral ground.

The challenge for the AAP is multi-fold. The most pressing question is whether Delhi voters are ready for a return to the party's confrontational style of politics. If the February 2025 elections are any indication, voters rejected it despite the AAP continuing with its formula of free power, free water and free education.

A high-decibel, perception-altering campaign by the resourceful BJP has obviously added to AAP's woes, but the party's undoing can also be attributed to its inability to shed the image of being an arrogant and obstinate player in the governance structure. People appeared weary of its confrontational politics.

Over the past year, the AAP raised only sporadic voices. They were neither powerful enough nor did the public feel the vigour that had marked the party before its electoral debacle. Once seen as an opinion creator, the AAP in Delhi's Opposition has not been as voluble as it was while in government or during its inception.

More than street action, it was press conferences and social media posts that kept the AAP alive. Its calls for action drew only muted responses, as Kejriwal himself remained absent from Delhi for a year after the poll defeat.

He may have felt bitter towards the Delhi voter, who once catapulted him to power as an agent of change but dealt him a harsh blow during the biggest crisis of his political life.

For the AAP, regaining people's trust will be its major assignment. It may not be prudent to rely on the same playbook of confrontational politics — whose expiry date has long passed — at least in Delhi.

While Kejriwal will remain the party's lone face, the AAP will also have to rewrite the personality-driven politics embedded in its system. This time, it must go beyond the "imaandaar" (honest) and simplicity planks, as people will demand answers to their hard questions.

A variety of corruption allegations, including the exorbitant revamp of his official residence during his tenure as chief minister, as well as the liquor scam case, have dented his image. While the public is aware that Kejriwal received relief in one corruption case, the euphoria is missing.

With people no longer seeing him as markedly different from other politicians, Kejriwal will now have to demonstrate how he stands apart from the current crop of leaders he publicly despises.

In this endeavour, he may have to redesign his strategy by no longer being evasive on contentious issues. This time, he may not enjoy the luxury of being ideology-less, as he once projected himself to be.

SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

Hidden cost of biodiversity loss

K N Ninan writes about integrating ecological risks, opportunities, costs and benefits into business decisions and financial planning

Businesses and financial institutions are increasingly concerned about nature-related financial risks and their impact on their production and revenues. A World Economic Forum report on 'Nature Risks Rising' notes that some of the world's fastest-growing economies are highly vulnerable to nature loss. For example, about one-third of GDP in countries such as India and Indonesia is estimated to be moderately or highly dependent on nature. African countries reported this proportion to be 23% of their GDP. Even large economies such as China, the EU, and the USA, which together account for 60% of global GDP, reported high GDP figures (ranging from $2.1 to $2.7 trillion) generated by nature-dependent sectors.

An analysis of 163 industries and their supply chains found that about $44 trillion of economic value generation — more than half of global GDP — is moderately or highly dependent on nature. Construction, agriculture, food, and beverages are highly nature-dependent sectors with an economic value ($7.9 trillion) that is roughly twice the size of Germany's economy (about $4 trillion). The pharmaceutical industry depends on tropical rainforests and their plant species for many existing and potential drugs. For instance, roughly half of modern pharmaceuticals are derived from or inspired by natural compounds, including those found in plants, microbes and marine organisms.

Given the high vulnerability of businesses to nature-related financial risks, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) assessed the impacts and dependencies of businesses on biodiversity and on nature's contributions to people. Its report, prepared by around 80 lead authors and many contributing experts from over 30 countries, emphasises that businesses are central to halting and reversing biodiversity loss but often lack information or tools to address their impacts and dependencies, as well as the risks and opportunities relating to biodiversity and nature's contributions to people. The current conditions in which businesses operate are not always compatible with achieving a just and sustainable future, and these conditions also perpetuate systemic risks.

Professor Stephen Polasky of the University of Minnesota, one of the Co-Chairs of the report, states that: "The loss of biodiversity is among the most serious threats to business. Yet the twisted reality is that it often seems more profitable to businesses to degrade biodiversity than to protect it. With the right policies, as well as financial and cultural shifts, what is good for nature is also what is best for profitability".

The report reveals that since 1992, the average per capita manufactured capital increased by over 100%, but this was realised at high cost, with the natural capital stock declining by 40%. Indigenous people and lands that are rich in biodiversity face the biggest threat, with an estimated 60% of their lands threatened by industrial development and 25% subject to intense resource exploitation.

Global public and private financial flows, estimated at $7.3 trillion in 2023, had direct negative impacts on nature, with private finance alone accounting for 67%. Public spending on environmentally harmful subsidies was estimated at about $2.4 trillion. But only $220 billion of global public and private finance flows in 2023 were directed to the conservation and restoration of biodiversity.

The report calls on corporations to play an important role as environmental stewards and to change their policies and strategies to achieve win-win outcomes for both businesses and biodiversity. It calls for integrating biodiversity-related risks, opportunities, costs and benefits into business decision-making and financial planning. Mechanisms to involve indigenous and local communities (ILK) in decision-making, as well as establish standards in line with global environmental agreements and national biodiversity legislation, to ensure access and benefit sharing and a consent mechanism while using biodiversity in businesses.

AI IMAGE FOR REPRESENTATION

Building awareness among corporates of the multiple values of nature and the vulnerability of their business operations to climate and nature risks can motivate businesses to reorient their strategies to make them more resilient to these risks.

Call for action

To make informed decisions, the report calls for mapping the roles of different actors in the value chain and integrating communities into value-creation activities such as sourcing, production, and distribution. It advocates for corporations playing a greater role in landscape conservation, restoration and sustainable management. Companies can do this by tapping CSR or other funds.

Different actors, such as governments, businesses, financial institutions, NGOs, and civil society, play important roles in creating an enabling environment for business. Governments need to mainstream biodiversity into policy and planning, incentivise the sustainable use and management of biodiversity, and promote corporate disclosure of biodiversity/nature risks, dependencies, and impacts. Financial actors need to develop and use innovative financial instruments, such as green bonds, for business operations. NGOs, civil society, Indigenous and local communities can play an important role in encouraging responsible business and practices that will lead to positive biodiversity outcomes.

But are businesses willing to sacrifice short-term gains for long-term interests that will benefit both business and biodiversity? Governments can mandate and incentivise businesses (e.g., by offering tax rebates) to disclose their biodiversity footprint in their financial reports and strategies to reduce it. Only 1 per cent or fewer of publicly reporting companies mention biodiversity impacts in their financial reports. Businesses and financial institutions need to increase green investments and deploy nature-based solutions to address the nature-related risks they face.

(The writer is the lead author of GEO-7, United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi and is the chairperson of Centre for Economics, Environment and Society, Bengaluru)

DID YOU KNOW?

Daily single-pill HIV regimen promises result

Across the world, millions of HIV patients take multiple pills daily to keep a check on the virus. Many of them diagnosed in the 1980s or 1990s developed resistance to medicines, resulting in complex treatment options. A single daily pill now shows promise as a replacement for such complex, multi-tablet HIV treatment regimens.

The new, daily oral tablet that combines two current HIV treatment medications, bictegravir and lenacapavir (BIC/LEN), may be able to effectively replace more complicated HIV treatment regimens used by people living with HIV who are long-term survivors, according to the results of a new phase 3 clinical trial.

Single-tablet regimens have been the standard of care for people with HIV-1 for the last two decades, offering simplicity, reduced pill burden, improved adherence, and better clinical outcomes compared with complex multi-tablet regimens. But older adults diagnosed early during the HIV-1 epidemic or people born with HIV-1 faced decades of antiretroviral therapy. They continue to rely on regimens consisting of multiple pills per day. These regimens usually require pharmacological boosting agents and can result in higher drug concentrations.

Led by Chloe Orkin at Queen Mary University of London, the ARTISTRY-1 trial evaluated the efficacy and safety of switching to a single-pill option for such people with HIV-1 with virological suppression on a complex regimen.

The trial that included more than 550 people living with HIV across 15 countries showed that the new single-pill treatment was highly effective in maintaining HIV suppression (HIV virus levels below 50 copies/mL).

Nearly 96% of participants who switched to this simplified regimen maintained viral suppression with no new drug resistance reported. In comparison, participants who continued their existing complex, multi-pill treatments showed similar results, also maintaining viral suppression at about 94-96%.

Participants' median age was 60 years (age ranges were between 22 and 84), which is considerably older than people who are usually included in HIV medication trials. Most trial participants had been taking between two and 11 pills per day for their HIV treatment, with approximately 40% of participants taking antiretrovirals more than once a day. Many participants also reported other health conditions, such as cardiovascular or kidney disease, and most had resistance to prior HIV therapy.

In the study, no significant or novel safety concerns were identified, and most participants experienced fewer lipid-related side effects, such as increased cholesterol levels, suggesting an additional potential benefit for those at risk of heart disease.

Participants reported that the new treatment option was easier and more convenient to take, which can help support consistent adherence to daily medication. The authors say this is especially important for older adults living with HIV, people with a previous history of developing resistance to HIV treatments, or those who are taking additional medications to help manage age-related health conditions along with HIV medication.

Additional clinical trials are underway to confirm the long-term safety and effectiveness of the BIC/LEN combination tablet.

The results of the trial have appeared in a recent issue of The Lancet.

–Kalyan Ray

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भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

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MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 27th February, 2026

S.O. 1071(E), Date: 27.02.2026 - In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building (widening/four laning etc.,), maintenance, management and operation of **NH373 in the stretch of land from Km. 105.78 to Km. 113.00 (Yedegowdanahalli to Arjunahalli Section) in the district of HASSAN in the state of KARNATAKA,** hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section(1) of section 3C of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, **Assistant Commissioner & Competent Authority for Land Aquisition, Hassan District, Hassan** in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under their notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling within the stretch of land **from Km. 105.78 to Km. 113.00 (Yedegowdanahalli to Arjunahalli Section) on NH-373 in the district of HASSAN in the state of KARNATAKA.**

STATE: KARNATAKA **DISTRICT: HASSAN**

Sl. No.	Survey / Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Local Unit) (in Sq.Mtr)	Area (in Hectare)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Taluk: Hole Narasipura					
Village: Doddahalli Kavalu					
1	1	Common	Dry	7587.85	0.758785
2	2	Common	Dry	101.171	0.0101171
Village: Kabburu					
3	54/5A	Private	Dry	4350.369	0.435037
4	54/5B1	Private	Dry	758.785	0.0758785
5	54/5B2	Private	Dry	682.907	0.0682907
6	54/9	Private	NAK	101.171	0.0101171
7	55/12	Private	Dry	455.271	0.0455271
8	55/13	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
9	55/14	Private	Dry	354.1	0.03541
10	55/16	Private	Dry	328.8	0.03288
11	55/17	Private	Dry	50.586	0.0050586
12	55/18	Private	NAK	379.393	0.0379393
13	55/20	Private	NAK	50.586	0.0050586
14	55/21	Private	NAK	101.171	0.0101171
15	55/4	Private	Dry	480.564	0.0480564
16	55/5	Private	NAK	252.928	0.0252928
17	56/1	Private	Dry	1062.3	0.10623
18	56/2	Private	Dry	708.2	0.07082
19	57/1A	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
20	57/2B	Private	Dry	1416.4	0.14164
21	60/3A	Private	Dry	885.249	0.0885249
22	66/1	Private	Dry	101.171	0.0101171
23	66/5	Private	Dry	531.15	0.053115
24	66/7	Private	Dry	1112.88	0.111288
25	66/8	Private	Dry	1011.71	0.101171
26	66/9	Private	Dry	1542.86	0.154286
27	72/1	Private	Dry	455.271	0.0455271
28	72/2	Private	Dry	404.685	0.0404685
29	72/3	Private	Dry	379.393	0.0379393
30	72/4	Private	Dry	531.15	0.053115
31	73	Private	Dry	1037.01	0.103701
32	74	Private	Dry	1340.52	0.134052
33	75/1	Private	Dry	733.492	0.0733492
34	75/2	Private	Dry	354.1	0.03541
35	76/1	Private	Dry	607.028	0.0607028
36	76/2	Private	Dry	885.249	0.0885249
37	76/3	Private	Dry	151.757	0.0151757
38	76/5	Private	Dry	556.443	0.0556443
39	76/6	Private	Dry	1062.3	0.10623
40	77/1	Private	Dry	480.564	0.0480564
41	77/10	Private	Dry	151.757	0.0151757
42	77/11	Private	Dry	101.171	0.0101171
43	77/2	Private	Dry	151.757	0.0151757
44	78	Private	Dry	1011.71	0.101171
45	79/2	Private	Dry	3363.95	0.336395
46	80	Private	Dry	1112.89	0.111289
47	89/1	Common	Dry	758.785	0.0758785
48	90	Private	Dry	1947.55	0.194755
49	91	Private	Dry	1138.18	0.113818
50	92/1	Private	Dry	202.343	0.0202343
51	92/2	Private	Dry	227.636	0.0227636
52	92/3	Private	Dry	50.586	0.0050586
53	92/4	Private	Dry	278.221	0.0278221
54	92/6	Private	Dry	859.957	0.0859957
55	92/7	Private	Dry	303.514	0.0303514
56	92/8	Private	Dry	278.221	0.0278221
57	93/1	Private	Dry	354.1	0.03541
58	93/2	Private	Dry	556.44	0.055644
59	94/1	Private	Dry	455.271	0.0455271
60	94/2	Private	Dry	75.879	0.0075879
Village: Yadegowdanahalli					
61	1/1	Common	Dry	556.442	0.0556442
62	1/2A	Common	Dry	126.464	0.0126464
63	1/3	Private	Dry	101.171	0.0101171
64	1/4	Private	Dry	75.879	0.0075879
65	1/5	Private	Dry	50.586	0.0050586
66	1/7	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
67	10/3	Private	Dry	505.857	0.0505857
68	10/6	Private	Dry	75.879	0.0075879
69	10/7	Private	Dry	151.7571	0.0151757
70	10/8	Private	Dry	784.078	0.0784078
71	13	Common	Dry	5362.08	0.536208
72	27/2	Common	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
73	27/3	Common	Dry	101.171	0.0101171
74	28/1	Private	Dry	227.636	0.0227636
75	28/2	Private	Dry	126.464	0.0126464
76	28/3A	Government	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
77	28/3B	Private	Dry	101.171	0.0101171
78	28/4	Private	Dry	126.464	0.0126464
79	28/5	Private	Dry	101.171	0.0101171
80	28/6	Private	Dry	278.221	0.0278221
81	28/7	Private	Dry	177.05	0.017705
82	28/8	Government	Dry	379.393	0.0379393
83	28/9	Private	Dry	227.636	0.0227636
84	29/18	Government	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
85	29/20	Government	Dry	101.171	0.0101171
86	29/25	Private	Dry	177.05	0.017705
87	29/40	Private	Dry	379.393	0.0379393
88	3/1	Private	Dry	151.757	0.0151757
89	3/11	Common	Dry	657.614	0.0657614
90	3/14	Private	Dry	278.221	0.0278221
91	3/3	Private	Dry	354.1	0.03541
92	37	Common	Dry	632.321	0.0632321
93	38/1	Private	Dry/Garden	303.514	0.0303514
94	38/2	Private	Dry/Garden	1214.06	0.121406
95	38/3	Private	Garden	151.757	0.0151757
96	38/4	Private	Dry/Garden	708.2	0.07082
97	38/5	Private	Garden	151.757	0.0151757
98	38/7	Private	Garden	25.293	0.0025293
99	39/1	Private	Garden	354.1	0.03541
100	4/1	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
101	4/2	Private	Dry	202.343	0.0202343
102	42	Government	Dry	1112.89	0.111289
103	43/1	Private	Dry	151.757	0.0151757
104	43/2	Private	Dry	151.757	0.0151757
105	43/3	Private	Dry	177.05	0.017705
106	43/4	Private	Dry	202.343	0.0202343
107	44/1	Common	Dry	657.614	0.0657614
108	44/3	Private	Dry	227.636	0.0227636
109	44/4	Private	Dry	278.221	0.0278221
110	44/5	Private	Dry	379.393	0.0379393
111	44/6	Private	Dry	303.514	0.0303514
112	45/1	Private	Dry	429.978	0.0429978
113	45/2	Private	Dry	429.978	0.0429978
114	45/3	Private	Dry	252.928	0.0252928
115	45/4	Private	Dry	809.371	0.0809371
116	45/5	Private	Dry	455.271	0.0455271
117	45/6	Private	Dry	733.492	0.0733492
118	45/7	Private	Dry	303.514	0.0303514
119	45/8	Private	Dry	50.586	0.0050586
120	46/1	Common	Dry	607.028	0.0607028
121	46/10	Private	Dry	354.1	0.03541
122	46/3	Common	Dry	404.685	0.0404685
123	47/1	Common	Dry/Garden	1618.74	0.161874
124	47/2A	Common	Dry	657.614	0.0657614
125	47/2B	Common	Dry	177.05	0.017705
126	5/1	Private	Dry	177.05	0.017705
127	5/12	Private	Dry	303.514	0.0303514
128	5/4	Private	Dry	328.807	0.0328807
129	5/5	Private	Dry	202.343	0.0202343
130	5/9	Private	Dry	126.464	0.0126464
131	53/3	Common	Dry	354.1	0.03541
132	53/6	Private	Dry	151.757	0.0151757
133	54/4	Private	Dry	101.171	0.0101171
134	54/5	Government	Dry	151.757	0.0151757
135	54/6	Government	Dry	126.464	0.0126464
136	54/7	Private	Dry	50.586	0.0050586
137	54/8	Private	Dry	50.586	0.0050586
138	63	Common	Dry	2529.28	0.252928
139	64	Government	Dry	303.514	0.0303514
140	65	Government	Dry	252.928	0.0252928
141	66/1	Private	Dry	50.586	0.0050586
142	66/2	Private	Dry	278.221	0.0278221
143	66/3	Private	Dry	126.464	0.0126464
144	66/4	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
145	76	Private	Dry	3591.58	0.359158
146	8	Government	Dry	1416.4	0.14164
147	9	Government	Dry	1416.4	0.14164
Village: Marahalli Kavalu					
148	1/1	Private	Dry	1391.11	0.139111
149	1/2	Private	Dry	2579.87	0.257987
150	11	Government	Dry	1391.11	0.139111
151	12	Private	Dry	2225.77	0.222577
152	5	Government	Dry	1669.33	0.166933
153	6/1	Private	Dry	202.343	0.0202343
154	6/2	Private	Dry	177.05	0.017705
155	6/3	Private	Dry	101.171	0.0101171
156	6/4	Private	Dry	177.05	0.017705
157	6/5	Private	Dry	177.05	0.017705
Village: Doddahalli					
158	100/1	Private	Dry	354.1	0.03541
159	100/3	Common	Dry	379.393	0.0379393
160	100/4	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
161	101/12	Private	Dry	429.978	0.0429978
162	103/1	Common	Dry	607.028	0.0607028
163	103/2	Private	Dry	379.393	0.0379393
164	104/15A	Private	Dry	708.2	0.07082
165	104/16	Common	Dry	708.2	0.07082
166	105/10	Private	Dry	252.928	0.0252928
167	105/12A	Private	Dry	75.879	0.0075879
168	105/14	Private	Dry	328.807	0.0328807
169	105/15	Private	Dry	278.221	0.0278221
170	114/2	Private	Garden	25.293	0.0025293
171	114/4	Private	Garden	50.586	0.0050586
172	114/5	Private	Garden	75.879	0.0075879
173	115	Common	Garden	151.757	0.0151757
174	116/1	Private	Garden	531.15	0.053115
175	116/3	Private	Garden	101.171	0.0101171
176	116/5	Private	Garden	379.393	0.0379393
177	117/1	Private	Wet	227.636	0.0227636
178	118	Private	Garden	328.807	0.0328807
179	120/1	Private	Garden	202.343	0.0202343
180	120/5	Private	Garden	227.636	0.0227636
181	121	Government	Dry	2605.16	0.260516
182	122/1	Private	Dry	607.028	0.0607028
183	122/10	Private	Dry	379.393	0.0379393
184	122/11	Private	Dry	101.171	0.0101171
185	122/12	Private	Dry	202.343	0.0202343
186	122/13	Private	Dry	202.343	0.0202343
187	122/14	Private	Dry	151.757	0.0151757
188	122/2	Private	Dry	227.636	0.0227636
189	122/3	Private	Dry	227.636	0.0227636
190	122/4	Private	Dry	177.05	0.017705
191	122/5	Private	Dry	151.757	0.0151757
192	122/7	Private	Dry	50.586	0.0050586
193	122/8	Private	Dry	404.685	0.0404685
194	122/9	Private	Dry	354.1	0.03541
195	123/23	Private	Dry	2099.31	0.209931
196	123/5	Private	Dry	859.957	0.0859957
197	123/7	Private	Dry	50.586	0.0050586
198	124/1B1	Private	Dry	151.757	0.0151757
199	124/1B2	Private	NAK	25.293	0.0025293
200	125/7	Private	Dry	202.343	0.0202343
201	126	Private	Dry	202.343	0.0202343
202	128/11	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
203	128/12	Private	Dry	50.586	0.0050586
204	128/13	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
205	128/14	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
206	128/15	Private	Dry	177.05	0.017705
207	128/19	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
208	128/19	Private	Dry	50.586	0.0050586
209	128/20	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
210	128/20	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
211	128/21	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
212	128/4	Private	Dry	50.586	0.0050586
213	128/6	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
214	128/7	Private	Dry	50.586	0.0050586
215	128/8	Private	Dry	50.586	0.0050586
216	178/1	Private	Dry	126.464	0.0126464
217	178/10	Private	Dry	202.343	0.0202343
218	178/2	Private	Dry	404.685	0.0404685
219	178/3	Private	Dry	101.1714	0.0101171
220	178/6	Private	Dry	126.464	0.0126464
221	178/7	Private	Dry	252.928	0.0252928
222	178/8	Private	Dry	101.171	0.0101171
223	178/9	Private	Dry	252.928	0.0252928
224	179/18	Private	Dry	531.15	0.053115
225	179/3	Private	Dry	101.171	0.0101171
226	179/7	Private	NAK	25.293	0.0025293
227	180	Private	Dry	202.343	0.0202343
228	181/10	Private	Dry	101.171	0.0101171
229	181/1A	Private	Dry	202.343	0.0202343
230	181/1B	Private	Dry	101.171	0.0101171
231	181/2	Private	Dry	379.393	0.0379393
232	181/3	Private	Dry	1163.47	0.116347
233	181/4	Private	Dry	202.343	0.0202343
234	181/5	Private	Dry	379.393	0.0379393
235	181/6	Private	Dry	1618.74	0.161874
236	181/7	Private	Dry	202.343	0.0202343
237	181/8	Private	Dry	202.343	0.0202343
238	181/9	Private	Dry	101.171	0.0101171
239	93	Common	Dry	910.5423	0.0910542
240	95/1A	Private	Dry	25.293	0.0025293
241	96/1	Private	Dry	50.586	0.0050586
242	96/11	Private	Dry	151.757	0.0151757
243	96/14	Private	Dry	151.757	0.0151757
244	96/4	Private	Dry	1542.86	0.154286
245	96/8	Private	Dry	202.343	0.0202343
246	96/9	Private	Dry	202.343	0.0202343
247	99/1	Private	Dry	455.271	0.0455271
Village: Rageehalli Kavalu					
248	1	Common	Dry	5210.33	0.521033
249	33	Common	Dry	2883.38	0.288338
250	35	Government	Dry	2377.53	0.237753
251	36	Common	Dry	6373.8	0.63738
252	38	Government	Dry	6474.97	0.647497
			Total		**14.6546737**

[F. No. CNH/TA-4/AE-1/HSN/Not-3(a)/3A2]
SHAIKH AMINKHAN, Director

Oppn slams US waiver on Russian oil as 'blackmail'

Accuses Modi govt of ceding diplomatic space

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Opposition on Friday attacked the Narendra Modi government over the US announcement granting India a waiver to buy Russian oil, asking how long the "American blackmail" would continue and calling it an "absolute shame".

Claiming that India's strategic autonomy and national sovereignty are "under dire threat" because Modi is "getting blackmailed" on the Epstein files and the Adani case, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the US decision to grant India "permission" to buy Russian oil for 30 days shows that the Modi government is continuously ceding diplomatic space.

Mallikarjun Kharge

"This is the kind of language which is used for sanctioned states, and not India, who has been a responsible and an equal partner in global order... From trade to oil, from data to India's long-term relationships with friendly countries, Modi-ji surrendered it all," Kharge posted on X.

"From Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi to even AB Vajpayee — no PM has buckled under pressure of any country and made India a virtual vassal state, except Modi-ji," Kharge added.

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, said India's foreign policy should emerge from the collective will of the people and be rooted in the country's history, geography and spiritual ethos based on truth and non-violence.

"What we are witnessing today is not policy. It is the result of the exploitation of a compromised individual," he said, recalling his remarks in the Lok Sabha on February 11 that "the US will tell us who we can or cannot buy oil from".

Congress General Secretary (Organisation) KC Venugopal alleged that the prime minister "has to beg" before other countries to purchase oil during this Amrit Kaal, and it is "deeply humiliating" for India's sovereignty and international standing.

CPM General Secretary MA Baby asked since when India has needed permission from another country to make its own decisions.

"This is an absolute shame. Never in independent India's history have we been insulted like this on the global stage," he said.

People stage a protest against the killing of Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in US-Israel joint strikes, in Hyderabad, on Friday. PTI

India tightens watch on ships amid West Asia conflict

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

MARITIME SAFETY

- Centre moves to safeguard Indian seafarers
- Reviews maritime security, trade continuity in Gulf waters
- Indian-flagged vessels safe; no casualties reported
- 24x7 helpline set up for seafarers

Amid the West Asia conflict, the Centre on Friday said it has strengthened monitoring measures with a focus on safeguarding Indian seafarers and vessels while ensuring continuity of maritime trade.

The Secretary in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPS&W) chaired an inter-ministerial meeting to assess the evolving situation, an official statement said.

The meeting was attended by representatives from the Ministries of External Affairs and Petroleum and Natural Gas, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), as well as stakeholders from the shipping industry and various trade organisations, it added.

The Shipping Ministry continues to closely monitor developments in coordination with maritime stakeholders and relevant ministries to safeguard Indian maritime interests, ensure the safety of seafarers and maintain the smooth functioning of maritime trade and logistics operations, it stated.

It also said that Indian-flagged ships continue to remain safe and no confirmed detention, boarding or casualty involving those vessels has been reported.

A 24-hour helpline has been established at the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) to facilitate coordination and support for seafarers.

All 35 Indian-flagged vessels in the Persian Gulf region (24 west of the Strait of Hormuz and 11 east of the Strait including the Gulf of Oman and adjoining areas) and three vessels in the Gulf of Aden are being continuously tracked through the LRIT (long-range identification and tracking) National Data Centre at hourly intervals, with regular shipping situation reports being issued, the government said.

Enhanced monitoring and reporting mechanisms have been activated for Indian-flagged vessels as well as foreign-flagged vessels carrying Indian seafarers to ensure continuous situational awareness and operational preparedness, the official statement said.

Shipping companies, vessel operators and Recruitment and Placement Service Licensees (RPSLs) have been advised to exercise caution in crew deployment in sensitive regions, undertake voyage-specific risk assessments and maintain regular communication with seafarers and their families.

The ministry said it also reviewed the status of vessels and cargo bound for Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and West Asian destinations.

The overall port operations across India remain stable. Ports have been directed to extend all necessary assistance to minimise hardships faced by exporters and ensure continuity of EXIM trade, it stated.

Iran nudges India to condemn US-Israel attacks

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Amid the West Asia conflict, Iran subtly nudged India to condemn the military offensive launched by Israel and the United States, as External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and the Persian Gulf nation's Deputy Foreign Minister Saeed Khatibzadeh held a brief meeting in New Delhi on Friday.

"Unfortunately, principles of international law have been attacked, and we have to stand together against these atrocities," Khatibzadeh told journalists after meeting Jaishankar on the sidelines of the Raisina Dialogue — India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-economics.

"The Americans have assassinated the head of another state. If this is the new norm, then no country on earth can actually pursue diplomatic normalisation with others," he added, referring to the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei in a US-Israeli strike on February 28.

S Jaishankar with Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Saeed Khatibzadeh. PTI

India refrained from condemning the attack on Iran, the killing of Ayatollah Khamenei, and the sinking of the Iranian Navy ship IRIS Dena in a submarine attack by the US.

"This is a very sad, very unfortunate incident. That vessel was by invitation of our Indian friends, attending an international exercise. It was unarmed," Khatibzadeh said.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri visited the Embassy of Iran in New Delhi on Thursday and signed the condolence register for the slain Supreme Leader. He just expressed condolences on behalf of the people and the Indian government, without any reference to how Khamenei had been killed.

Iranian ship docked at Kochi days before US sank IRIS Dena

NEW DELHI, DHNS: India has been sheltering more than 180 crew members of an Iranian warship that docked at Kochi earlier this week, government sources said on Friday.

Days before the IRIS Dena was torpedoed by a US submarine south of Sri Lanka, India was approached by Iran to take in the Iranian Ship IRIS Lavan, which was also in the region for the International Fleet Review.

A request was received on February 28 seeking urgent berthing at Kochi after the vessel developed technical issues.

The Union government gave its approval for the docking on March 1, and the Iranian ship docked at Kochi on March 4.

IRIS Lavan's crew of 183 are currently accommodated at naval facilities in Kochi, sources said.

West Asia coverage: Govt directs BARC to stop TV rating for a month

NEW DELHI, DHNS: With some news channels displaying apparently "unwarranted sensationalism and speculative content" while covering the West Asia situation following the US-Israel attack on Iran, the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on Friday asked television rating agency Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) to immediately withhold reporting the Television Rating Points (TRPs) for a period of four weeks.

The ministry said it had been "observed that amidst the ongoing Israel-Iran conflict, certain news channels are displaying unwarranted sensationalism and speculative content, which may potentially create panic among the general public, especially those having friends and family in the affected areas or residing in the affected areas".

Clause 24.2 of the policy guidelines prescribes that "the company shall be required to comply with any orders, regulations, guidelines, directions, etc, issued by the Ministry", it noted.

"Therefore, in the public interest, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting hereby directs M/s BARC to immediately withhold reporting the TRPs for news TV channels for a period of four weeks or until further directions," said the directive.

Internet restored in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, DHNS: High-speed internet services were restored across Kashmir on Friday evening, while authorities said restrictions imposed in parts of the Valley would be lifted from Saturday, after almost a week of tensions linked to the West Asia conflict.

However, congregational prayers were not held at the historic Jamia Masjid Srinagar on Friday as authorities enforced restrictions in parts of the city and placed Kashmir's chief cleric, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, under house arrest amid fears of protests.

Security was tightened across Srinagar's old city and other sensitive localities, with heavy deployment of police and paramilitary personnel.

As Harivansh term ends, election for RS deputy post looms

NEW DELHI, DHNS: With senior JD(U) MP Harivansh's term ending on April 9, the Rajya Sabha could see an election to the deputy chairman post in the Monsoon session of Parliament amid questions on whether the ruling BJP would take over the post or earmark it for an ally, as had happened six years ago.

The 69-year-old journalist-turned-lawmaker will be completing his term next month. During the past 12 years, he was the deputy chairman for nearly six years and nine months.

With the Budget session ending on April 2 before his term concludes, an election to the deputy chairman's post is unlikely to be held in its second leg, starting next Monday.

Sources said the ruling side has not initiated any discussion on Harivansh's successor. The scenarios include the BJP taking over the post or giving it to allies like the AIADMK or the TDP. If the NDA chooses the AIADMK, M Thambidurai could hold the post next.

Nitish's son to join JD(U), likely to be made DyCM

To take primary membership tomorrow

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar made it clear that his decision to go to the Rajya Sabha was irreversible as he chaired a meeting of JD(U) MLAs, MLCs, and MPs at the CM's official residence, 1 Aney Marg, on Friday evening.

Nishant Kumar

He also announced that his son Nishant would enter active politics and assume primary membership of the JD(U) on March 8.

"Nishant Kumar will formally join the JD(U) on Sunday, keeping in view the sentiments of lakhs of party workers," said Sanjay Jha, the national working president of the JD(U).

"We were also informed that Nishant will be made the deputy chief minister of Bihar in the next government, which would be formed once Nitish relinquishes the CM's post following his election as Rajya Sabha member," said a party legislator present at the meeting.

During the meeting, Nitish reportedly hinted that he may join Narendra Modi's team at the Centre as a Union minister. "But I will keep a hawk's eye on Bihar as well, sitting in Delhi itself," he is said to have told his legislators, who urged him to reconsider his decision to give up the CM's post.

Although Nishant has no administrative experience and has never been active in politics, this will be the first time that someone who is not a member of either House will be directly elevated to the post of Bihar's deputy CM.

The Nishant factor behind Nitish's Rajya Sabha shift

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

JD(U) leaders and workers continued their protest on Friday, putting up posters at the party office in Patna, urging Nitish Kumar to reconsider his decision to move to the Rajya Sabha. Yet one question looms large: why did he finally agree to relinquish the chief minister's chair for a far less lucrative Upper House berth?

High-level sources within the party suggest that since last year, Nitish has been facing mounting pressure to induct his son Nishant Kumar into active politics. Nitish dismissed these suggestions outright, reminding aides that he had spent his entire career opposing dynasty politics, where leaders like Lalu Prasad and others promoted their families.

But that was only until January.

Last month, senior leaders close to Nitish made a fresh bid to bring Nishant — an engineering graduate from BIT Mesra, Ranchi — into active politics.

Nishant, now 50, is known for his reticence. When he does speak, it is largely to highlight his father's achievements.

On March 1, when Nitish celebrated his 75th birthday, the clamour to induct his son into active politics grew louder. Some even floated the idea of sending the rookie politician to the Rajya Sabha.

Nitish shot down the proposal. Nishant himself made it clear that if he ever entered politics, he would prefer to begin his journey in Bihar rather than in New Delhi.

It was then that Nitish relented, with the condition that if Nishant were to join active politics in Bihar, he (Nitish) would move to the Centre. The decision caught even his closest aides off guard.

Supporters were stunned. They took to the streets, squatted on the road, and urged him to withdraw his decision. But Nitish stood firm. "I have given my word to the BJP," was all he told them.

JD(U) workers protest against Nitish Kumar's decision to enter the Rajya Sabha in Patna on Friday. PTI

DYNASTY DILEMMA

- Nitish long opposed dynasty politics
- But party pressure mounted to induct son Nishant into politics
- Fresh bid in February to bring him into active politics
- Nitish set a condition: If Nishant joins in Bihar, he will shift to Centre

BJP poised to elect new Bihar CM after JD(U) leader's exit

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

TRANSITION

- BJP likely to elect new CM; alliance consultations underway
- Nitish convenes JD(U) MPs to deliberate on leadership change
- BJP to lead govt, JD(U) to get deputy CM post

With Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar set to move to the Rajya Sabha, the BJP is likely to elect one of its leaders as the next chief minister, party sources said.

According to them, discussions within the ruling alliance are underway regarding a leadership transition in the state. The development comes after Nitish announced that he will shift to national politics through a Rajya Sabha berth, paving the way for the BJP to stake claim to the CM's post.

On Friday, Nitish called a meeting of JD(U) MPs to deliberate on the matter.

Sources said that under the possible arrangement, the BJP would lead the government in Bihar, while its ally, the JD(U), could be accommodated with a deputy chief minister's post. The JD(U) is also expected to retain its existing representation in the state Cabinet as part of the coalition arrangement.

Frontrunners within the JD(U) for the post of the deputy CM include Nishant Kumar, Nitish's son. If he is indeed made the deputy CM, the state is unlikely to have another deputy CM, as the JD(U) does not want power-sharing in the post.

The JD(U) will induct 15 ministers into the Cabinet, while the Lok Janshakti Party will have two ministers. Other allies, including Hindustan Awam Morcha and Rashtriya Lok Morcha, will have one minister each.

While the names of potential BJP leaders who could take over as CM have not been officially discussed, sources indicated the leadership is considering multiple options.

The proposed shift would mark a significant transition in Bihar, where Nitish has served a record 10 terms as CM and has been a central figure in the state's politics for nearly two decades.

Assam polls: Cong to campaign with 3 other Oppn parties

GUWAHATI, DHNS: The Congress and three other Opposition parties in Assam on Friday announced that they would campaign together against the BJP for the Assembly polls, even as seat-sharing talks remained inconclusive.

Jointly addressing the media, leaders of the Congress, the Asom Jatiya Parishad (AJP), the CPM, and the All Party Hill Leaders Conference (APHLC) also announced that talks were underway to include a few more Opposition parties, like the Raijor Dal, led by Akhil Gogoi.

"We will jointly go to the people and highlight the massive corruption being done by the BJP-led government, price rise, increase in taxes, and how all these have made life miserable for the people. We will fight together and remove the Sarma government from the state," said AJP chief Lurinjyoti Gogoi.

Show of unity

Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi said the four parties joined hands despite differences to dislodge the BJP. "We will fight against divisive politics and hatred being spread by the BJP and restore the inclusive greater Assam."

The show of unity came amid uncertainty over seat-sharing with the Raijor Dal and the Left parties. In November last year, the Congress and five other Opposition parties decided to ally, but parleys over seat-sharing had raised questions over a "united Opposition alliance".

Mamata launches anti-SIR protest ahead of EC visit

KOLKATA, DHNS

Ahead of the Election Commission (EC) visit to Kolkata to assess the West Bengal Assembly poll preparations, Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress (TMC) chief Mamata Banerjee on Friday led her party in a sit-in protest against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, which led to the deletion of over 63 lakh voters and placed another 60 lakh "under adjudication".

Mamata vowed to expose the conspiracy allegedly hatched by the EC at the BJP's behest to disenfranchise a large number of Bengal voters to ensure advantage for it in the Assembly polls.

Mamata Banerjee stages a sit-in protest in Kolkata. PTI

TMC general secretary Avishek Banerjee also called for a social and political boycott of the BJP in West Bengal.

"Many people have been declared dead by the SIR during the SIR, but they are alive and are sitting here. I will bring them to the stage," said Mamata at the beginning of the protest, pointing at some people near the podium. "The BJP and its agents in the EC have shamelessly crossed all limits."

The chief minister said that she would elaborate on the issue on Saturday.

Expected to spend the night at the site of the protest, she also said that the stir was just the beginning.

Abhishek recalled the "No vote to BJP" campaign by some civil society organisations ahead of the 2021 Assembly elections. "Today, we are calling upon the 10 crore people of West Bengal to boycott the BJP socially and politically," said the TMC supremo's heir apparent.

AP liquor scam: ED traces Rs 1,048-cr money trail

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

THE CASE

- ED initiated probe based on FIR registered by Andhra Pradesh CID under IPC Sections 120-B, 409, and 420
- Fears were of losses of Rs 4,000 crore to exchequer
- Proceeds of crime used for buying immovable properties and enrichment of members of liquor syndicate

The Enforcement Directorate (ED), which was probing the alleged liquor scam during the previous YSRCP regime in Andhra Pradesh, has so far found a money trail of Rs 1,048.45 crore in the form of kickbacks that several liquor distilleries were compelled to pay by cash, gold, the control and operation of some distilleries by the liquor syndicate, and also financial gains derived from liquor transport.

The ED initiated the probe based on an FIR registered by the Andhra Pradesh CID under Sections 120-B, 409, and 420 of the IPC for loss of Rs 4,000 crore to the exchequer.

Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) investigations revealed that the proceeds of the crime were used for the purchase of immovable properties and the personal enrichment of members of the liquor syndicate and their associates.

The accused were found to have concealed or dissipated a substantial portion of the proceeds of crime.

Illegal revenues

ED investigation revealed that the syndicate generated illegal revenues estimated at approximately Rs 100 crore per month through manipulation of procurement and supply mechanisms, resulting in wrongful personal enrichment, while causing corresponding loss to the state exchequer.

The investigation revealed that physical cash kickbacks were collected and stored at multiple locations in Hyderabad, from where the syndicate's designated cash handlers subsequently moved, distributed, or disposed of them.

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल. 33004/99 REGD. No. D.L. - 33004/99

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No.1028] NEW DELHI, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2026/PHALGUNA 8, 1947

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
NOTIFICATION
New Delhi, the 27th February, 2026

S.O. 1072(E), Date: 27.02.2026— In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building (widening/four laning etc.,), maintenance, management and operation of **NH373 in the stretch of land from Km. 87.280 (Near Chikknahalli) to Km. 97.580 (Near Hullahalli) in the district of HASSAN in the state of KARNATAKA,** hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section(1) of section 3C of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, **Assistant Commissioner & Competent Authority for Land Aquisition, Hassan District, Hassan** in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under their notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling within the stretch of land from **Km. 87.280 (Near Chikknahalli) to Km. 97.580 (Near Hullahalli) of NH373 in the district of HASSAN in the state of KARNATAKA.**

STATE: KARNATAKA **DISTRICT: HASSAN**

Sl. No.	Survey / Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Local Unit) (in Hectare)	Area (in Hectare)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Taluk: Hole Narasipura					
Village: Chikknahalli					
1	66/1	Private	Dry	0.0076	0.0076
2	66/11	Private	NAK	0.0519	0.0519
3	66/12	Private	Dry	0.0051	0.0051
4	66/2	Private	Dry	0.1495	0.1495
5	66/3	Private	Dry	0.0025	0.0025
6	66/4	Private	Dry	0.0025	0.0025
7	66/5	Private	Dry	0.0051	0.0051
8	66/7	Private	Dry	0.0022	0.0022
9	66/8	Government	Kharabu	0.002	0.002
Village: Hirebelaguli					
10	16/1	Private	Dry	0.1113	0.1113
11	17/6	Private	Wet	0.0207	0.0207
12	17/8	Private	Dry	0.0176	0.0176
13	30/2	Private	Dry	0.0084	0.0084
14	30/3	Private	Dry	0.0279	0.0279
15	30/4	Private	Dry	0.0123	0.0123
16	31/1A	Private	Dry	0.0099	0.0099
17	43/2A	Private	Dry	0.0051	0.0051
18	43/3	Private	Dry	0.0019	0.0019
19	43/4A	Private	Dry	0.0071	0.0071
20	44/1	Private	Dry	0.0058	0.0058
21	45/13	Private	Dry	0.0061	0.0061
22	45/14	Private	Dry	0.0069	0.0069
23	45/2	Private	Dry	0.0303	0.0303
24	45/3B	Private	Dry	0.0065	0.0065
25	45/4	Private	Dry	0.0054	0.0054
26	45/5	Private	Dry	0.003	0.003
27	45/6B	Private	Dry	0.006	0.006
28	45/8	Private	Dry	0.0015	0.0015
29	9/16	Private	Wet	0.0081	0.0081
30	9/6	Private	Wet	0.0051	0.0051
31	9/8	Private	Wet	0.005	0.005
32	9/9	Private	Wet	0.0131	0.0131
Village: Shivapura					
33	11/10	Private	Dry	0.0034	0.0034
34	11/19	Private	Dry	0.0069	0.0069
35	11/4A	Private	Wet	0.0029	0.0029
36	11/9	Private	Dry	0.01	0.01
37	14/1	Private	Dry	0.0095	0.0095
38	14/31	Private	Dry	0.0016	0.0016
39	14/6	Private	Dry	0.0044	0.0044
40	15/1	Private	Dry	0.008	0.008
41	20/1	Private	Dry	0.0038	0.0038
42	20/2	Private	Dry	0.0093	0.0093
43	4/21	Private	Dry	0.0556	0.0556
44	4/26	Private	Dry	0.0025	0.0025
45	4/4	Private	Dry	0.1467	0.1467
46	4/5	Private	Dry	0.2327	0.2327
47	4/6	Private	Dry	0.0405	0.0405
48	4/7	Private	Dry	0.1214	0.1214
49	4/8	Private	Dry	0.0632	0.0632
Village: Chikkabyagathavalli					
50	30/2B	Private	Dry	0.0102	0.0102
51	35/1	Private	Dry	0.0142	0.0142
52	35/3	Private	Dry	0.0067	0.0067
53	38	Private	Dry	0.0947	0.0947
54	39/1	Private	Wet	0.0466	0.0466
55	40/1	Private	Dry	0.0473	0.0473
56	46/2	Private	Wet	0.0214	0.0214
57	46/3	Private	Wet	0.04	0.04
58	48/1	Private	Garden	0.0252	0.0252
59	49/8	Private	Dry	0.1922	0.1922
60	49/9	Private	Dry	0.0809	0.0809
61	97/11	Private	Wet	0.005	0.005
62	97/12	Private	Dry	0.0096	0.0096
63	97/8	Private	Dry	0.0017	0.0017
64	98/2	Private	Wet	0.0383	0.0383
65	98/4	Private	Dry	0.0371	0.0371
66	98/5	Private	Dry	0.0202	0.0202
67	98/8	Private	Dry	0.0063	0.0063
Village: Sankanahalli					
68	1/17	Private	Dry	0.0069	0.0069
69	2/1	Private	Dry	0.0054	0.0054
70	2/8	Private	Dry	0.0113	0.0113
71	2/9	Private	Dry	0.0016	0.0016
72	30	Government	Kharabu	1.0952	1.0952
73	31/4	Private	Dry	0.0076	0.0076
74	31/8	Private	Dry	0.0046	0.0046
75	33/13	Private	Dry	0.0582	0.0582
76	33/5	Private	Dry	0.0261	0.0261
77	34/1	Private	Dry	0.0153	0.0153
78	34/11	Private	Dry	0.0162	0.0162
79	34/5	Private	Dry	0.0025	0.0025
80	34/6	Private	Dry	0.0032	0.0032
81	34/7	Private	Dry	0.0033	0.0033
82	38/14	Private	Dry	0.0188	0.0188
83	38/15	Private	Dry	0.0319	0.0319
84	38/9	Private	Dry	0.0184	0.0184
85	41/18	Private	Dry	0.0051	0.0051
86	41/20	Private	Garden	0.0202	0.0202
87	41/24	Private	Dry	0.0169	0.0169
88	41/25	Private	Dry	0.0025	0.0025
89	41/26	Private	Dry	0.0065	0.0065
90	41/32	Private	Dry	0.0151	0.0151
91	43/11	Private	Dry	0.0146	0.0146
92	43/12	Private	Dry	0.0107	0.0107
93	43/14	Private	Dry	0.0064	0.0064
94	43/27	Private	Dry	0.0016	0.0016
95	43/28	Private	Dry	0.0024	0.0024
96	47	Government	Kharabu	0.0582	0.0582
97	6/10	Private	Dry	0.0228	0.0228
98	6/11	Private	Dry	0.0048	0.0048
99	6/13	Private	Dry	0.0065	0.0065
100	6/2	Private	Dry	0.0051	0.0051
101	6/5	Private	Dry	0.0135	0.0135
102	6/8	Private	Dry	0.0244	0.0244
103	6/9	Private	Dry	0.0405	0.0405
104	7/3	Private	Dry	0.0521	0.0521
105	8/2	Private	Dry	0.0488	0.0488
Village: Dakshinanala					
106	14/7	Private	Dry	0.0022	0.0022
107	17	Private	Garden	0.0127	0.0127
108	19/3	Private	Wet	0.0067	0.0067
109	21	Government	Kharabu	0.0158	0.0158
Village: Krishnapura					
110	13/12	Private	Wet	0.0039	0.0039
111	13/13	Private	Wet	0.0072	0.0072
112	13/2C3	Private	Dry	0.0025	0.0025
113	13/2D	Private	Wet	0.0025	0.0025
114	13/3	Private	Dry	0.0383	0.0383
115	13/5	Private	Wet	0.0078	0.0078
116	17/4	Private	Dry	0.0886	0.0886
117	17/6	Private	Dry	0.0125	0.0125
118	18/2	Private	Dry	0.1328	0.1328
119	19	Private	Dry	0.0459	0.0459
120	3/3	Private	Dry	0.0025	0.0025
121	3/4	Government	Kharabu	0.0072	0.0072
122	3/5	Private	Wet	0.0023	0.0023
123	3/7	Private	Wet	0.002	0.002
124	3/8	Private	Wet	0.0078	0.0078
125	49/2	Private	Dry	0.0035	0.0035
126	49/29	Private	Dry	0.2125	0.2125
127	49/35	Private	Dry	0.0034	0.0034
128	49/36	Private	Dry	0.0159	0.0159
129	49/39	Private	Garden	0.0075	0.0075
130	49/40A	Private	Dry	0.0084	0.0084
131	49/42	Private	Dry	0.0243	0.0243
132	49/43	Private	Dry	0.025	0.025
133	49/44	Private	Dry	0.0243	0.0243
134	49/48	Private	Garden	0.0025	0.0025
135	49/55	Private	Dry	0.0032	0.0032
136	51/14	Private	Dry	0.0073	0.0073
137	51/15	Private	Dry	0.0025	0.0025
138	51/16	Private	Dry	0.0051	0.0051
139	51/2	Private	Dry	0.0025	0.0025
140	51/23	Private	Dry	0.0304	0.0304
141	51/4A	Private	Dry	0.0062	0.0062
142	51/4B	Private	Dry	0.0054	0.0054
143	77/5	Private	Dry	0.018	0.018
144	78/6	Private	Dry	0.0032	0.0032
Village: Gadenahalli					
145	27/1A	Private	Dry	0.0196	0.0196
146	27/1B	Private	Dry	0.0024	0.0024
147	27/2A	Private	Dry	0.2309	0.2309
148	27/3B	Private	Dry	0.0062	0.0062
149	27/4	Private	Dry	0.0169	0.0169
150	29/1	Private	Dry	0.0358	0.0358
151	29/13	Private	Dry	0.0012	0.0012
152	29/14	Private	Dry	0.0062	0.0062
153	29/15	Private	Dry	0.0047	0.0047
154	29/8	Private	Dry	0.2203	0.2203
155	32/1	Private	Dry	0.0037	0.0037
156	33/3	Private	Dry	0.1045	0.1045
Village: Chikkchagahalli					
157	77	Government	Kharabu	0.4932	0.4932
Village: Mallenahalli					
158	11/12	Private	Dry	0.0073	0.0073
159	11/13	Private	Dry	0.0253	0.0253
160	11/14	Private	Dry	0.0177	0.0177
161	11/31	Private	Dry	0.0181	0.0181
162	11/32	Private	Dry	0.0278	0.0278
163	11/33	Private	Dry	0.0607	0.0607
164	11/34	Private	Dry	0.0961	0.0961
165	11/35	Private	Dry	0.0759	0.0759
166	11/45	Private	Dry	0.0078	0.0078
167	11/48	Private	Dry	0.0061	0.0061
Village: Kongalabeedu					
168	1/4	Private	Dry	0.01	0.01
169	2/1	Private	Dry	0.0189	0.0189
170	5/11	Private	Wet	0.0455	0.0455
171	5/12	Private	Wet	0.0809	0.0809
172	5/13	Private	Wet	0.1012	0.1012
173	5/14	Private	Wet	0.1012	0.1012
174	5/15	Private	Wet	0.1872	0.1872
175	5/16	Private	Wet	0.1416	0.1416
176	5/17	Private	Wet	0.1012	0.1012
177	5/18	Private	Wet	0.1012	0.1012
178	5/19	Private	Wet	0.1416	0.1416
179	5/1B	Private	Wet	0.0329	0.0329
180	5/20	Private	Wet	0.1189	0.1189
181	56/2A	Private	Dry	0.0717	0.0717
182	56/5	Private	Dry	0.0202	0.0202
183	58/11	Private	Dry	0.1002	0.1002
184	58/12	Private	Dry	0.0025	0.0025
185	58/13	Private	Dry	0.0074	0.0074
186	58/18	Private	Dry	0.008	0.008
187	58/7	Private	Dry	0.0012	0.0012
188	58/8	Private	Dry	0.0113	0.0113
189	58/9	Private	Dry	0.0113	0.0113
190	62	Private	Dry	0.0194	0.0194
191	9/5	Private	Dry	0.0037	0.0037
Village: S.Ankanahalli					
192	26/1	Private	Dry	0.0054	0.0054
193	26/6	Private	Dry	0.0478	0.0478
Village: Hullahalli					
194	20/2	Private	Dry	0.0131	0.0131
195	20/3	Private	Dry	0.04	0.04
196	20/4	Private	Dry	0.0194	0.0194
197	23/8	Private	Dry	0.008	0.008
Village: Aichanahalli					
198	19/1	Private	Dry	0.0095	0.0095
199	19/10	Private	Dry	0.0163	0.0163
200	19/11	Private	Dry	0.0058	0.0058
201	19/12	Private	Dry	0.0049	0.0049
202	19/13	Private	Dry	0.0073	0.0073
203	19/15	Private	Dry	0.0051	0.0051
204	19/3	Private	Dry	0.0124	0.0124
205	19/4	Private	Dry	0.0339	0.0339
206	19/9	Private	Dry	0.0025	0.0025
207	28/5	Private	Wet	0.004	0.004
208	3/1	Private	Dry	0.0078	0.0078
209	3/2	Private	Dry	0.0304	0.0304
210	3/3	Private	Dry	0.0109	0.0109
211	3/4	Private	Dry	0.004	0.004
212	4	Government	Kharabu	0.0275	0.0275
213	5/1	Private	Dry	0.0095	0.0095
214	5/2	Private	Dry	0.0101	0.0101
215	5/8	Private	Dry	0.0286	0.0286
216	6/2	Private	Dry	0.004	0.004
217	60/4	Private	Garden	0.007	0.007
218	61/1	Private	Garden	0.0148	0.0148
219	61/2A	Private	Garden	0.0292	0.0292
220	62/2	Private	Dry	0.0062	0.0062
221	62/3	Private	Dry	0.0038	0.0038
222	69/1	Private	Dry	0.1046	0.1046
223	70/2	Private	Wet	0.0169	0.0169
224	70/21	Private	Wet	0.0284	0.0284
225	70/25	Private	Wet	0.0126	0.0126
226	70/26	Private	Wet	0.0025	0.0025
227	70/33	Private	Wet	0.0105	0.0105
228	70/36	Private	Wet	0.0239	0.0239
229	70/3A	Private	Wet	0.0113	0.0113
230	70/3B	Private	Wet	0.0025	0.0025
231	70/3C	Private	Wet	0.0199	0.0199
232	70/5	Private	Wet	0.0025	0.0025
233	70/7	Private	Wet	0.0297	0.0297
234	75/1A	Private	Dry	0.0023	0.0023
235	75/2	Private	Dry	0.0026	0.0026
236	75/3	Private	Dry	0.0417	0.0417
237	76/1	Private	Dry	0.0106	0.0106
238	77/1	Private	Dry	0.01	0.01
239	77/2	Private	Dry	0.0346	0.0346
240	8/1	Private	Dry	0.0708	0.0708
241	88	Government	Kharabu	0.0049	0.0049
242	9/3	Private	Dry	0.018	0.018
Village: Lakshmipura					
243	9/5	Private	Garden	0.0153	0.0153
			Total		**8.3238**

[F. No. CNH/TA-4/AE-1/NH-173/3(a)/3A]
SHAIKH AMINKHAN, Director

AP to curb social media access for kids below 13

CM Naidu says considering to enforce ban in next 90 days

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

CHILD SAFETY

- Naidu says officials discussing regulations for the 13-16 age group
- GoM directed officials to study child-protection policies in Singapore, Australia, Malaysia and France
- TDP has been pushing for a national policy on age-based regulation of social media for children

The Andhra Pradesh government will soon restrict social media access for children under 13. Speaking in the Legislative Assembly on Friday, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu announced that the government is considering steps to enforce the ban within the next 90 days, following a proposal from IT Minister Nara Lokesh.

Chandrababu Naidu

Naidu added that officials are also discussing regulations for the 13-16 age group and will take a decision after building wider consensus.

"Our government is committed to ensuring our children do not suffer due to social media. Technology acts as a weapon when used properly, but becomes destructive to lives when it enslaves us," he said in the Legislative Assembly.

A Group of Ministers (GoM) formed by Naidu in September 2025 recently directed officials to study child-protection policies in Singapore, Australia, Malaysia and France. The panel aims to recommend a new bill addressing gaps in existing laws on online vitriol and misinformation.

The TDP, which is an NDA ally, has also been pushing for a national policy on age-based regulation of social media for children.

TDP's floor leader in Lok Sabha, Lavu Krishna Devarayalu, met Union Information & Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw a few days ago and submitted a representation drawing attention to the growing concern regarding children's safety on social media platforms.

In his letter, the MP highlighted alarming data pointing to excessive social media usage among Indian children and adolescents, linking it to anxiety, depression, self-harm, cyberbullying, and online psychological distress.

'Karnataka imitating AP'

In a related development, Lokesh accused the Karnataka government of imitating Andhra Pradesh after Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced a similar social media ban for children during his budget speech on Friday. "Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery," Lokesh posted on social media minutes after Siddaramaiah's announcement.

CELEBRATING SECURITY

Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel during the 57th Raising Day celebrations, in Mundali, Odisha, on Friday. The CISF will now oversee the security of sea ports across the country. PTI

Ghaziabad most polluted

NEW DELHI, PTI: Ghaziabad was the most-polluted city in India during the winter season in 2025-26, followed by Noida and Delhi, according to an air-quality analysis by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA).

At least 204 out of 238 Indian cities with sufficient monitoring data recorded average winter PM2.5 concentrations above India's National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), up from last year's 173 cities, the CREA analysis said.

Dreams beyond odds: Kerala's UPSC achievers

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

Among the Malayalis who cleared the UPSC Civil Services Examination 2025, Sreeja JS (57th rank) and Ajay R Raj (109th rank) have more reasons to celebrate, having overcome odds in life.

Sreeja, a Thiruvananthapuram native, is the daughter of a daily-wage construction worker, Jayakumar, and homemaker Sheejakumari. Coming from a financially weak background, she pursued her dream against all constraints.

Raj, meanwhile, achieved success despite his visual impairment, proving resilience and determination in the face of challenges.

Having spent all their earnings and even borrowed money on their children's education, the couple could not complete the construction of their house. Jayakumar still uses a bicycle to save money.

Sreeja says it was her parents' willpower that inspired her.

"I am grateful to have such parents who never said no to my education," said Sreeja, who cracked the civil services on her first attempt.

Ajay R Raj, a native of Kozhikode, suffered vision impairment in childhood and took the UPSC exam with the help of a scribe. Raj told reporters that the support of friends and family enabled him to overcome his visual challenges and crack the exam.

Even a non-party can seek a review of court order: SC

Allows appeal against Kerala HC Dec 2020 order

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has said even a non-party can seek review of an order if they perceive it to be in the position of a person aggrieved by the decision and satisfy the court as such.

A bench of Justices Dipankar and Aravind Kumar allowed an appeal filed by Dr Jiji K S and others against the Kerala High Court's judgment and declared that their career in engineering colleges as associate professors would not be affected.

The HC, by its December 3, 2020, order, had undone the benefits flowing from the judgment of the Supreme Court in favour of the appellants with regard to their appointments in engineering colleges as teachers.

The appellants' counsel said that the HC could not have, in essence, revisited this court's order qua them. This court, having granted an order in favour of the appellants, there could arise no occasion for the HC to disturb the finality attached.

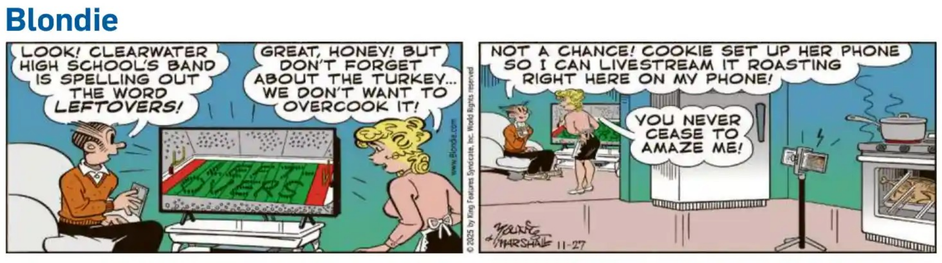
Allowing the appeal, the bench, in a recent judgment, said, "However, at the same time, had the appellants been impleaded and represented before the High Court and the order of this court been placed before it, we wonder whether the occasion for the appellants to approach this court would at all have arisen."

The bench pointed out, not too long back, this court in Union of India Vs Nareshkumar Badrikumar Jagad (2019) ruled that even a non-party to the proceedings, if they perceive it to be in the position of a person aggrieved and satisfy the court as such, can seek review of an order passed therein.

MISCELLANY

◆COMICS◆

Blondie


LOOK! CLEARWATER HIGH SCHOOL'S BAND IS SPELLING OUT THE WORD LEFTOVERS!
GREAT, HONEY! BUT DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE TURKEY... WE DON'T WANT TO OVERCOOK IT!
NOT A CHANCE! COOKIE SET UP HER PHONE SO I CAN LIVESTREAM IT ROASTING RIGHT HERE ON MY PHONE!
YOU NEVER CEASE TO AMAZE ME!

Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

I FEEL GOOD, DOC, EXCEPT I GET THESE HEADACHES
WE CAN DO A QUICK SCAN TO SEE WHAT'S GOING ON
IT APPEARS THAT YOUR HEADACHES ARE WORK-RELATED

Peanuts

YOU DID WHAT?
I GAVE MY BLANKET TO EUDORA!
WHAT COULD I DO? SHE SMILED AT ME!
I'M SURPRISED AT YOU! YOU USUALLY DON'T DO DUMB THINGS LIKE THAT..
IT WAS A CUTE SMILE

Marvin

SO, HOW IS VOLUNTEERING AT THE NURSERY SCHOOL GOING?
THEY WON'T LET ME BE IN MARVIN'S CLASS BECAUSE THEY'RE WORRIED ABOUT FAVORITISM
SUDDENLY, USING ALL OF MY FREE TIME TO TAKE CARE OF OTHER PEOPLE'S CHILDREN FOR FREE ISN'T SEEMING LIKE A GREAT IDEA

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LUVTA

PGHRA

NIEOLN

ESDLTE

There goes the last piece!
That was fun, Grandpa! Can we do another one?
Sure. We love spending time with you two.
We finally finished it!
8/27
WHEN THEY COMPLETED THE JIGSAW PUZZLE, THEY WERE ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: LEMUR PAUSE SMELLY BRUNCH
Answer: The new shop thrived thanks to all the customers that lived — "NEAR-BUY"

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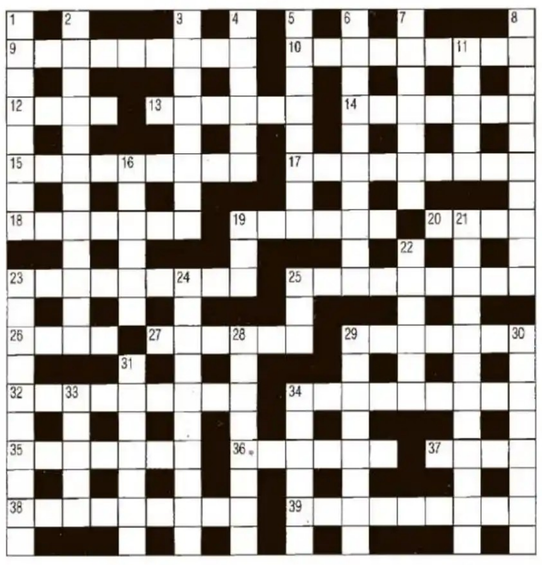
CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 4030



ACROSS
9 Loathsome (9)
10 Newsreader (9)
12 Body of men (4)
13 Very busy (6)
14 Intellectual, informally (7)
15 Lacking resolution (9)
17 Giving a wide view (9)
18 Tooth specialist (7)
19 Yearly (6)
20 Flightless bird (4)
23 Obstructive (9)
25 African (9)
26 Manage (4)
27 Secret (6)
29 Stalemate (7)
32 Maze (9)
34 Mention (9)
35 Stringed instrument (7)
36 Referee (6)
37 Operatic song (4)
38 Economic (9)
39 Crossed (9)

DOWN
1 Beleaguered (8)
2 Contest (12)
3 Deferential (8)
4 Rank (6)
5 Cooking vessel (8)
6 Below (10)
7 G.P.'s office (7)
8 Prophecy (10)
11 Dairy product (5)
16 Eatable (6)
19 Hole-boring tool (3)
21 Peculiarity (12)
22 Metal (6)
23 Coarse (10)
24 Made mistakes (10)
25 Newt (3)
28 Spends (8)
29 Casual (8)
30 Gemstones (8)
31 Pressing need (7)
33 Deception (5)
34 Public estimation (6)

CRYPTIC

ACROSS
9 Result of feeling sick of being sweet and charming? (3,6)
10 Telephoning to say where the train is (2,3,4)
12 The morning's started badly for him (4)
13 Be very humble when writing a note to the new lover (6)
14 It's a gun, kid! Put back those gems! (7)
15 Knowing it's deliberate (9)
17 Doesn't stop the papers before one's going off (7,2)
18 Do they take a little peek at the laces threaded through? (7)
19 Before you settle for mono, say (6)
20 Was preparing a little breakfast while you wash (4)
23 Stir, mixing into after blending, and it's very good (5-4)
25 Fixing a bell outside the entrance is of little importance (9)
26 Try again to wound (4)
27 Firm it should go on the second list (6)
29 The difference in currency does make things hard (7)
32 Remind you they're still awaiting admission (4,1,4)
34 Recapping on the physical assault (5-4)
35 Many a lie having been found out, is antagonistic (7)
36 Refuses to move the booths (6)
37 Back with a little less than a dollar from abroad (4)
38 In a confident sort of way, no doubt (9)
39 Stick the forged notes inside for the foreigner (9)

DOWN
1 For a number, boarding the boat is the high point (8)
2 Not a mistake made though being dim? (7,5)
3 Turning up among ours, is unfortunately a fake (8)
4 Forces into united efforts to attain the goal (6)
5 Crack up and pass, by mistake (8)
6 The amazing looking egg is cracked into it (10)
7 Make up for having got out of line? (7)
8 Someone capable of being prepossessing (10)
11 Paid up and is taking possession of the articles (5)
16 Be innovative, but make a big to-do about it (6)
19 The easy answer to what to have for dessert (3)
21 "Good-looking" is very fancied by the punters (4-8)
22 Smart, bagging the royal pearls! (6)
23 Reckon the boss is a boss in name only (10)
24 Waiting to get that wrapped up before taking the day off (2,3,5)
25 Said the letter travels by air (3)
28 What the child has targeted in the sweet shop? (5-3)
29 Is going to give us a song about drinking (8)
30 Told, rushed back and ticked off (8)
31 The weapons are a knock out, sire! (7)
33 About suntraps being popular with birds (5)
34 The gander will fly off (6)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12368

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Crust 6, Sport 9, Tri-VI-al 10, Car-Ry. 11, Cat-CH 12, Milky (way) 13, Related 15, Get 17, A-dam 18, Angel-a 19, Being 20, C-hives 22, Tire 24, Hen 25, Bet-wee-n 26, V-it-al 27, Ski-E-d 28, Angie 29, Seating 30, Beats 31, Death
DOWN: 2, Rear-Ed 3, Stream 4, Try 5, A-void 6, Sacking 7, Play 8, R-ache-L 12, Me-Des 13, Ran-ch 14, Lat-i-n 15, Genie 16, Ta-Ken 18, Angel 19, Be-Sid-es 21, Heck-le 22, Twin-ge 23, Res-is-t 25, Barts 26, Vest 28, And

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Scrap 6, Falls 9, Glasgow 10, Story 11, Lauds 12, Belly 13, Ordered 15, Rep 17, Used 18, Demise 19, Lyres 20, Rascal 22, Deer 24, Eve 25, Berates 26, Sonar 27, Green 28, Again 29, Mixture 30, Relic 31, Trays
DOWN: 2, Caters 3, Agreed 4, Ply 5, Asked 6, Follies 7, Away 8, Ladies 12, Beryl 13, Outre 14, Dense 15, Rivet 16, Pears 18, Defer 19, Laconic 21, Averse 22, Danger 23, Eerily 25, Baits 26, Semi 28, Art

◆SU-DO-KU-6848◆

		6		1			7	
		7			9	2		1
	8				3			6
		4					2	3
			1		6			
8	2					1		
1			4				5	
4		8	5			7		
	9			6		4		

hard

4	6	5	9	3	2	8	7	1
3	8	1	4	7	5	9	2	6
2	7	9	1	8	6	3	5	4
6	2	4	8	9	3	7	1	5
5	9	3	2	1	7	6	4	8
8	1	7	5	6	4	2	9	3
1	3	2	7	5	8	4	6	9
9	4	6	3	2	1	5	8	7
7	5	8	6	4	9	1	3	2

SOLUTION TO 6847

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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E1	A1	I1	T1	M3	R1	M3	Double Word Score	RACK 1
S1	R1	J8	E1	P3	A1	E1		RACK 2
N1	E1	Y4	S1	E1	O1	H4	1st Letter Double	RACK 3
Z10	E1	I1	P3	A1	R1	P3	Triple Word Score	RACK 4
N1	H4	Y4	A1	O1	L1	C3		RACK 5

PAR SCORE 180-190
by JUDD

FIVE RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

M3 U1 T1 A1 N1 T1	RACK 1	8
H4 A1 R1 M3 E1 D2	RACK 2	20
F4 A1 C3 T1 O1 R1	RACK 3	22
C3 A1 R1 D2 I1 N1 G2	RACK 4	83
PAR SCORE 85-95	JUDD'S TOTAL	133

HITORI-3302

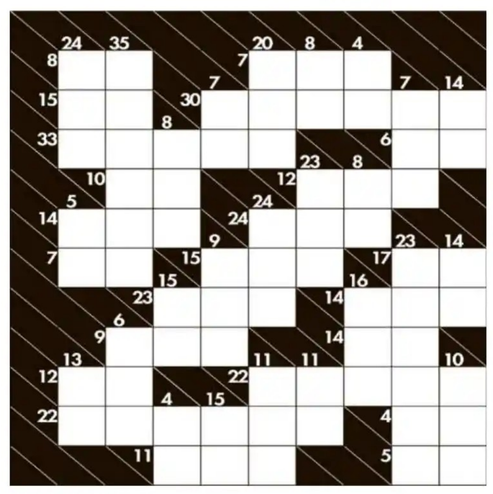
2	3	7	2	8	1	6	3
2	6	2	7	3	5	2	2
1	7	3	4	5	6	8	4
8	2	6	4	1	3	2	5
3	8	2	2	6	6	4	2
6	2	4	5	2	7	7	1
2	5	2	3	7	8	8	6
7	2	2	6	2	4	3	5

SOLUTION TO 3301

7	■	6	3	■	4	5	■
5	3	2	■	1	6	■	4
■	2	■	5	■	8	6	3
4	8	3	7	6	5	■	1
1	■	8	■	4	■	3	5
■	4	■	8	5	3	■	7
6	5	4	1	■	2	7	■
3	■	5	2	7	■	4	6

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3302



SOLUTION TO 3301

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3848

■								■
	■		9				■	
		9			1	■		
			■	8	4	6	2	
	1			3				
2		8	1		■			
		■			8	5		3
3	■		6	9			■	
6	5						7	■

SOLUTION TO 3847

3	5	6	4	9	8	1	2	7
8	1	7	2	5	3	4	9	6
9	4	2	7	6	1	8	5	3
7	8	1	5	2	6	3	4	9
6	2	3	8	4	9	7	1	5
5	9	4	1	3	7	6	8	2
1	7	5	6	8	2	9	3	4
4	3	8	9	7	5	2	6	1
2	6	9	3	1	4	5	7	8

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

US Justice Dept releases Epstein docs with claims against Trump

WASHINGTON, AFP: The US Justice Department published additional FBI documents on Thursday describing interviews with a woman who said President Donald Trump sexually assaulted her after she was introduced to him by Jeffrey Epstein.

The documents had not been made public under previous congressionally-mandated file releases related to the late convicted sex offender because they were mistakenly marked "duplicative," the department said.

Democrats are investigating the Trump administration's handling of the Epstein files.

The documents released on Thursday include descriptions of multiple 2019 interviews the FBI held with the woman, who alleged she was assaulted by both Epstein and Trump while she was between 13 and 15 years old.

In one interview, the woman said Epstein took her to "either New York or New Jersey" and introduced her to Trump. She told investigators that she bit Trump as he attempted to force her to perform oral sex on him.

Conflict Escalates : Israel and US warn of intensified attacks and additional 'surprises'

Iran, Lebanon hit hard as war enters 'next phase'

TEHRAN, AFP

Fresh strikes rocked Iran and Lebanon on Friday, as Israel vowed to escalate to a new phase in the Middle East war that has spiralled rapidly throughout the region and beyond.

AFPTV images from Beirut's southern suburbs showed mangled buildings and burned-out vehicles after heavy Israeli bombing overnight, with tens of thousands fleeing the destruction.

The war, now entering its seventh day, has dragged in global powers, upended the world's energy and transport sectors, and brought chaos to even usually peaceful areas of the volatile region.

Powerful explosions shattered the skies above Iran's capital Tehran early Friday as Israel said it was striking "regime infrastructure" in the city. Internet coverage is running at about one percent, according to monitor group Netblocks.

In Tehran, the war has emptied the usually traffic-jammed streets but residents said security forces are keeping a tight grip on the population.

The powerful Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps "has closed almost every main street with armed personnel and heavy machine guns to frighten people", a 30-year-old Tehran resident said from Paris.

Houthi supporters brandish rifles and hold portraits of Iran's slain supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei during a rally in solidarity with Iran and Lebanon on Friday. AFP

Friday morning's strikes on Tehran followed warnings from Israel and the US they were stepping up their attacks.

"We are now moving to the next phase of the operation," Israel's military chief Lieutenant General Eyal Zamir said, adding, "We have additional surprises ahead which I do not intend to disclose," he added.

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth also announced "firepower over Iran and over Tehran is about to surge dramatically".

Strike on Azerbaijan raises fears of war spreading to Caucasus

BAKU, AFP: Iranian drone strikes on Azerbaijan have raised fears that the Middle East war could spill into the Caucasus, as Baku, an ally of Israel, vows to respond.

Azerbaijan announced on Friday it was withdrawing diplomatic staff from Iran, a day after drones launched from Iranian territory targeted an airport and exploded near a school in the country's Nakhichevan exclave, bordering Iran. Four people were wounded.

President Ilham Aliyev accused Tehran of carrying out a "terrorist act" and ordered the armed forces to prepare retaliatory measures, placing them on the highest level of mobilisation.

Iran denied responsibility and blamed Israel -- Azerbaijan's close ally and arms supplier -- of staging a provocation aimed at disrupting relations between Muslim countries.

Sri Lanka 'safely' transfers 204 Iranian sailors from second ship

COLOMBO, PTI: The Sri Lankan Navy on Friday said 204 of the 208 Iranian personnel on board IRINS Bushehr have been "safely" transferred to the port of Colombo, two days after another Iranian frigate was sunk near the island nation.

Four sailors are remaining on the ship which had developed trouble in one of the engines, the navy said.

The navy said it will take at least two more days for the ship to reach the eastern port of Trincomalee from its current location outside capital Colombo.

Navy spokesman Commander Buddika Sampath said the Iranian sailors will be taken to the navy camp at Welisara, a northern suburb in Colombo. In a televised address on Thursday, Dissanayake said the vessel, IRINS Bushehr, had sought permission to enter Sri Lankan waters, citing an engine failure.

"We wanted to remain neutral while dealing with a humanitarian response," he said.

Iran's 'unconditional surrender' only way to end war: Trump

TEHRAN, AFP

President Donald Trump said Friday that only Iran's "unconditional surrender" would bring an end to the Middle East war, as Tehran was pummelled by some of the heaviest US-Israeli strikes of the week-long conflict.

Now in its seventh day, the war has embroiled nations beyond the region, upended the world's energy and transport sectors, and brought chaos to even usually peaceful areas around the Gulf.

It has spread to Lebanon, whose prime minister warned of an impending humanitarian disaster as the death toll rose and tens of thousands fled heavy Israeli strikes on Beirut's southern suburbs.

Trump, who has given varying reasons for starting the war that killed Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei last weekend, promised to help rebuild the country's economy if Tehran installed a new leader

Donald Trump

"acceptable" to him.

"There will be no deal with Iran except UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER," Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform.

The main US crude oil price -- already surging with the critical energy waterway the Strait of Hormuz in the Gulf effectively blocked -- soared by 10 percent after Trump's comments.

Israel's military said it had hit more than 400 targets across Iran on Friday.

Several loud explosions sent clouds of black smoke into Tehran's sky, according to AFP journalists who described strikes as the heaviest yet on the capital.

"It's really very scary," a Tehran businessman who gave his first name as Robert told AFP.

"Checkpoints have been put up in place in the city to prevent looting and ensure control," the 60-year-old said.

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, C.V. Ramannagara Division 8th Cross, 12th A Main Road, HAL 2nd Stage, Indira Nagara, Bengaluru - 560038

No: EE/CVR/KPPP/10/2025-26 Date: 06.03.2026

INVITATION FOR TWO COVER TENDER (IFT)

(Two Cover System) (Quality and Cost Based selection) (Through e-Procurement Portal GOK website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

The Executive Engineer (Sir CV Raman nagar Division), BCCC Bengaluru invites Bids on behalf of the Commissioner, BCCC for the following services from reputed Consultants Consultancy services for Project Management Consultant (PMC) for the below works

Sl. No.	Name of the work
1	**Name of Work:** Project Management Consultancy Services for the work of Construction of Revenue Office at Jeevanbhim Nagara & Comprehensive Development of Roads, drains pertaining to ward No.112, 113, 114,115 in Jeevan Bhimanagar Sub division & ward No 108, 109, 110, 111 in CV Raman nagara Sub Division & Developments of Play Grounds in CV Raman Nagara Division. **Project Cost in Crores:** 25.00. **Amt. Put to Tender in Lakhs:** 20.02. **EMD Amount:** 50,000.00
2	**Name of Work:** Project Management Consultancy Services for the work of Asphalt resurfacing & improvements to Arterial & Sub Arterial Roads in Sir CV Raman Nagar Division Under GOK Grants for the year 2025-26 (GO No. 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19,20,21,22,23,25) (No of Works-19). **Project Cost in Crores:** 30.00. **Amt. Put to Tender in Lakhs:** 24.01. **EMD Amount:** 50,000.00

Calendar of Events: 1) Pre bid meeting will be held on 12.03.2026 at 15.30 hrs in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Sir CV Raman nagar Division 8th Cross 12th A Main Road, HAL 2nd stage Indiranagara, Bengaluru - 560038. **2)** Last date submission of tender documents on or before 16-03-2026 at 16.00 hours. **3)** Technical Bids will be opened on the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in in the office of the Executive Engineer, Sir CV Raman Nagar Division on 17-03-2026 at 16.30 hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Sir C.V. Raman Nagar Division

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Women and Child Development and Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens Department
1st Floor, 3rd Gate, M.S. Building, Bangalore-560001.

NOTIFICATION
APPLICATION FOR THE POST OF STATE COMMISSIONER FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Qualification for appointment of State Commissioner: No person shall be eligible for appointment of State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, unless he,

(a) Shall be a graduate from a University established by law;

(b) Shall be a holder of Degree or Diploma in social work or law or management or human rights or rehabilitation or education of person with disabilities;

(c) Shall have experience of at least 15 years in a Group "A" level post in the State Government out of which at least 2 years of experience in dealing with the welfare and rehabilitation schemes of persons with disabilities;

or

(d) Shall have experience of at least 15 years in Public Sector undertaking or a Semi Government or an Autonomous Body dealing with disability related matters or Social Sector or as Senior level functionary in registered National and International voluntary organizations in the field of disability or social development;

Salary : Rs.1,44,200-2,18,200+3% annual increment plus allowances as admissible to a Secretary of the Government of Karnataka.

Last date for submission of application by registered post with acknowledgment due: **04.04.2026 at 5.00 pm**

Application submitted to the following address: The Secretary to Government, Women and Child Development and Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens Department, 1st Floor, 3rd Gate, M.S Building, Bengalore-560001. Application format and other instructions can be downloaded from the Website: **https://dwdsc.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
(MURALIDHAR S. TALLIKERI)
Member Secretary,
Selection Committee of state commissioner for person with disabilities and **Deputy Secretary to Government-2**, to Government Women and Child Development and Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens Department, Bangalore

DIPR/CP/6051/ Zen/2025-26

US Prez fires homeland security chief Kristi Noem

Trump upset over handling of operations against illegal migrants

WASHINGTON, AFP

US President Donald Trump on Thursday fired Kristi Noem as head of the Department of Homeland Security, the agency responsible for carrying out his sweeping immigration crackdown.

Trump, in a post on Truth Social, said Markwayne Mullen, 48, a Republican senator from Oklahoma, would take over the powerful department on March 31. According to multiple media reports, Trump was upset with Noem's handling of the recent large-scale operation against undocumented migrants in Minnesota, during which federal immigration agents shot dead 2 Americans.

Kristi Noem

Trump was also reportedly angered by Noem's testimony at a Senate hearing this week during which she said the president had personally approved a $220 million DHS advertising campaign in which she featured prominently.

Trump said Noem, 54, would become his special envoy for a new security initiative in the Western Hemisphere he called "The Shield of the Americas" that will be announced on Saturday.

"(Noem) has served us well, and has had numerous and spectacular results (especially on the Border!)," Trump said.

He described Mullin as a "MAGA Warrior" and said he will be a "spectacular Secretary of Homeland Security."

"Markwayne will work tirelessly to Keep our Border Secure, Stop Migrant Crime, Murderers, and other Criminals from illegally entering our Country, End Scourge of Illegal Drugs and, MAKE AMERICA SAFE AGAIN," he said.

Axel Springer to buy The Telegraph in £575m deal

LONDON, AFP: German media group Axel Springer said Friday it had agreed to buy right-wing British newspaper The Telegraph in a surprise move, as the UK government investigates a rival bid.

The German group, which already owns tabloid Bild, the Welt broadsheet and Politico news outlet, said in a statement it would pay £575 million ($766 mn) in cash for the title, which comprises daily print and online versions. Britain's government last month launched an investigation into an agreed sale to the owner of the Daily Mail, a rival right-wing publication, citing competition concerns.

Pak, Afghan border forces clash; UN says war displaces 100k

KABUL, REUTERS

Pakistani and Afghan troops exchanged fire at dozens of points along their border on Friday as the U.N. said their week-old conflict has forced the displacement of more than 100,000 people.

The South Asian nations show no signs of rapprochement in their worst fighting in years, adding to the volatility in a region also contending with U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran - a nation that borders both Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Combat has included Pakistani air strikes on Taliban government installations, such as the Bagram air base north of the Afghan capital Kabul.

Afghanistan's Ministry of Defense said Taliban forces struck Pakistani military installations in more than two dozen locations along the 2,600-km (1,600-mile) border, destroying 14 posts and shooting down a drone.

It said seven Afghan civilians and three Taliban fighters were killed in overnight fighting.

Pakistani security sources said they carried out ground and air operations against military targets including Kandahar, the heartland of the Taliban and where its core leadership resides, and destroyed several Afghan border posts.

GULBARGA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned government of Karnataka)
CIN: U04010KA2002SGC030436

No. GESCOM/SEE (Procurement)/EE/AEE/2025-26/89107-11 Date : 02-03-2026

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPP PORTAL MODE ONLY)

PC-1492: Providing Man power Services on temporary basis required for Corporate Office including 24x7 Customer care Centre at GESCOM Kalaburagi.
Tender Amount : Rs. 865.11 Lakhs
Dates : Bid Documents available at KPPP Portal: on or after 07-03-2026. Last Date for Bid submission, Opening of Technical Bid and opening of price Bid: As per KPP Portal.
Bidder Qualifying Requirements : As per documents (IFB): For additional information Contact : Superintending Engineer El., Procurement, Corporate Office, GESCOM. Kalaburagi-585102. Mobile : 94484 99997. Web Site Address : www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in. For information about the KPP portal. Contact the helpline at **+91-8046010000/8068948777** or e-mail address : **support@eprochelpdesk.com**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Procurement)
GESCOM, Corporate Office, Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/1143/KSMC&A/2025-26

Karnataka Soaps & Detergents Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
An ISO-9001:2015 & 14001:2015 Company
Regd. Office : #27, Industrial Suburb, Bengaluru-Pune Highway, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru - 560 055. E-mail: ksdl.dgmmtls@gmail.com, Ph. No.: 080-22164810/22164879/23372367

e-Auction Notice No.: KSDL/2025-26/AUCTION22 Date: 06.03.2026

e-Auction Notification

KS&DL invites applications from Scheduled Public Sector banks for investment by way of deposit of Surplus funds. Documents for e-auction can be downloaded from Karnataka Public Procurement Portal through website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/**

Sl. No.	Amount Available (Rs.in Crores)	Period of Investment	Eligibility	Date of e-Auction Notification	Date and Time of Live Auction	Date of Investment
	Fund name: KS&DL Fixed Deposits					
1	Investment of Surplus/ Maturity amount as fixed deposit of Rs.300 Crores- Rs. 100 crore (Rs. 50 crores x 2 Packages) are Callable for the period of 1 year and Rs. 200 crores (Rs. 50 crores x 4 Packages) are Non-callable for the period of 1 year	1 Year for Callable and 1 Year for Non-Callable	Scheduled Public Sector banks	06.03.2026	Commences at 10.30 a.m & Concludes 4.30 p.m. on 27.03.2026	01.04.2026 to 04.04.2026

Item wise Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of Rs. 6,000/- should be Paid only through e-portal. SCHEDULE OF VARIOUS EVENTS FOR e-AUCTION: (1) Pre-bid meeting : **10.03.2026 at 3.00 pm. (2)** Last Date to upload the Eligibility Criteria in Annexure- A & Declaration in Annexure-B in the e-portal: **24.03.2026 on or before 3.00 pm.**

Sd/-
Asst. General Manager (Mtls.)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
U. R. RAO SATELLITE CENTRE
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP
HAL AIRPORT ROAD, VIMANAPURA POST,
BENGALURU - 560 017 (Phone: 080 2508-4185, 4156)
BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

1.On behalf of the President of India, item- rate tender is invited for the following work:

Description	Details	Details
Name of work	Improvement of Conference Hall Lighting at AITF-1 & AITF-2 Buildings at ISITE Campus, Marathahalli, Bengaluru-37	Providing Earthing Stations & Post Top Lighting at ISITE Campus, Bengaluru
E-Tender Notice	URSC/C&MG/E/M/20/2025-26 Dt. 02/03/2026	URSC/C&MG/E/M/21/2025-26 Dt. 02/03/2026
Estimated cost put to Tender	₹ 18.73 Lakhs	₹ 13.50 Lakhs
Period of completion in months	Six (06) Months	Four (04) Months
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**₹ 37,460/- valid for 180 Days**	**₹ 27,000/- valid for 180 Days**

2. Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details in website: **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/-
Group Director, C&MG, URSC

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
M.I & G.W.D.D. DIVISION, VIJAYAPUR

No.EE/MID/VJP/AE-2,3,4/4702/TND/2025-26/4589 **Date:05.03.2026**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department, Division Vijaypur invites work tenders through "E-Procurement" from eligible contractor on item rate Tender for following works as per KTPP Act-2000 and latest amendments.

4702 Major Works :- Total 1 Work, Amount put to Tender **Rs.96.84 Lakhs, Tender Period for the above work is Six(6) Months including monsoon.**

4702 SCP Works :- Total 4 Works, Amount put to Tender **Rs.928.51 Lakhs, Tender Period for the above work is Three(3) to Eleven(11) Months including monsoon.**

Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka E-Procurement website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home under login for Contractors from **06.03.2026.** Tenders may be submitted on electronically in E-Procurement portal up to **17-30 hrs.** on **18.03.2026.** Interested contractors information regarding works may be obtained from this office or e-Procurement helpdesk (Ph.No.080-25501216 & 080-25501227) upto **17-30 hrs.** on **17.03.2026.** Pre-bid meeting will be held on **13.03.2026** for work costing above 1.00 Crore in the office of the Executive Engineer, MI&GWDD Division, Vijaypur. Tenders shall be quoted without adding GST and other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
MI & GWDD Division, Vijayapur

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/781/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಹಾಗೂ ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಸಹಾಯಕರು,
ಮೈಸೂರು ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗ,
ಅರಣ್ಯ ಭವನ, ಅಶೋಕಪುರಂ ಮೈಸೂರು–570008
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಸಅಸಂ/ಮೈಉವಿ/ಬಿ1/ಬಿಯುಡಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿಆರ್–19/2025–26
ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27.02.2026

ಸವಿವರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಮೈಸೂರು ಅರಣ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಸರಗೂರು ವಲಯದ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿಂಹದಕಲ್ಲು ಪಾಯಿಂಟ್ ಯಿಂದ ಗೋವಿಂದನಾಯಕ ಕುನ್ನವರೆಗೆ ರೈಲ್ವೆ ಬ್ಯಾರಿಗೇಟ್ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಪರವಾನಗಿಗಾಗಿ ಒಪ್ಪಂದದ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದ್ದು, ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ. **1)** ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲದ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. **2)** ಒಟ್ಟು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ–01 **3)** ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.127.70. **4)** ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ 1.915/– **5)** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳ ಕುರಿತಾದ ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟೀಕರಣ ಕೇಳಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ: 05.03.2026 ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 11.00 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ. **6)** ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲದ ಮೂಲಕ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡುಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ: 06.03.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ. **7)** ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡುಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 07.03.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆ ನಂತರ. **8)** ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡುಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 09.03.2026 ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆ. **9)** ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಂದು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಾರದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟು. **10)** ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ: 13.03.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆ. **11)** ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡು ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 16.03.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆ. **12)** ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡುಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 17.03.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆ. **13)** ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲ ಅಥವಾ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 0821–2483853 ನ್ನು ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು. **14)** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ, ಮಾರ್ಪಾಡು ಅಥವಾ ಇತರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಚಾರಪಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಸಹಾಯಕರು,
ಮೈಸೂರು ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು

DIPR/DDMYS/1786/KSMCA/1008/2025-26

India using every policy tool to help exporters: Goyal

Govt says conflict may have implications for country's economy

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

An inter-ministerial group is in regular talks with the companies whose cargoes have been stuck due to growing conflict in West Asia, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said on Friday.

"Every day, the inter-ministerial group talks to the exporters. Even this morning, they must have had an engagement. They take feedback, and we will not be found wanting in supporting our exporters in any way," Goyal told reporters on the sidelines of an event organised by the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT).

He said the government will use every policy tool to support exporters.

"I have already given some instructions in the last few days, as I get to the office today, we will be formulating ways to give comfort to our exporters, in the next two days," the minister added.

Escalation of conflict in West Asia has led to disruption in the global supply-chain hitting Indian exporters, especially dealing in farm products like rice, spices, fruits and meat products.

On the issue of a jump in freight cost due to disruption in the Strait of Hormuz, Goyal said the ministry is working with exporters to work out possible ways of support.

Piyush Goyal

Meanwhile, the Union Finance Ministry said the conflict in West Asia could have significant and potentially long-lasting implications for India's economy, including risks to oil prices, balance of payments and financial stability.

"Speculation as to what would constitute the endgame for this conflict is rife. One thing is certain. The levels of volatility in macroeconomic outcomes and financial markets, and the world's uncertainty, have risen and will likely remain elevated for some time," the ministry said in its Monthly Economic Review.

Regardless of the immediate endgame for this conflict, it may have made the long-term endgame for lasting peace in the Gulf and beyond less clear, it said.

"The implications of this conflict for India are significant and may be longer-lasting in ways that are not immediately understood," the report noted.

The report further noted that "if the Strait of Hormuz remains vulnerable to disruption, the geopolitical risk premium in oil prices will inevitably return. If the confrontation ends with a credible shift in the regional balance of power, the international system will gradually absorb the shock, and markets will stabilise".

Sensex, Nifty dive over 1% on crude prices

MUMBAI, PTI: Stock market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty tumbled over 1% on Friday, after a day's breather as the conflict in West Asia entered its seventh day, driving crude oil prices higher.

Weakness in the US equities, subdued trend in European markets and relentless foreign fund outflows also dampened sentiments.

The 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 1,097 points, or 1.37%, to settle at 78,918.90. During the day, it sank 1,203.72 points, or 1.50%, to 78,812.18.

The 50-share NSE Nifty dropped 315.45 points, or 1.27%, to end at 24,450.45.

From the Sensex pack, Eternal, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, UltraTech Cement, HDFC Bank, State Bank of India, Bajaj Finserv, and Larsen & Toubro were among the major laggards. Bharat Electronics, Reliance Industries, Sun Pharma, NTPC, Infosys, and HCL Tech were the gainers.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, jumped 2.53% to $87.57 per barrel.

"A sustained rise in oil prices could weigh on investor sentiment and adversely affect India's twin deficits, inflation trajectory, and the RBI's monetary stance," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Ltd, said.

US' WAIVER: Indian cos seek legal advice over purchase of oil from sanctioned entities

Refiners snap up Russian oil cargoes at sea

NEW DELHI, PTI

Indian refiners have begun snapping up millions of barrels of Russian oil floating in Asian waters after the US granted a waiver allowing purchase of cargoes stranded at sea, but are seeking legal opinion on whether the exemption also permits buying from sanctioned entities, sources said.

The US has issued a 30-day waiver allowing India to buy Russian oil currently stuck at sea in an effort to keep global supplies flowing and temper further price increases.

Refiners have snapped up some 20 million barrels of Russian oil, mostly from non-sanctioned entities, they said, adding that they are seeking legal opinion if the waiver permits purchase of oil from even sanctioned entities.

They started buying Russian oil even before the US waiver came in as supplies from West Asia were disrupted.

India had emerged as the largest buyer of Russian seaborne crude after Moscow's 2022 invasion of Ukraine, but its refiners began scaling back purchases in January amid pressure from Washington.

The reduction helped New Delhi avoid a proposed 25% tariff on its exports and clinch an

interim trade deal with the US.

An oil ministry official said New Delhi never completely stopped buying oil from Russia as part of its policy to source energy needs from diversified sources. At February-end, before the US and Israel attacked Iran to trigger a wider conflict in the region, India bought some 1.04 million barrels per day (bpd) of Russian oil. This was lowest since November 2022 and half of peak 2.15 million bpd hit in May 2023.

The purchases, the official said, were from entities not sanctioned by the US.

As the widening West Asia conflict led to blockage of the crucial oil and gas transit route through the Strait of Hormuz and energy prices sources, the US gave a waiver to allow purchase from Russia.

The US Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) has issued a licence allowing the delivery, sale and offloading of Russian-origin crude oil or petroleum products that were loaded on vessels before March 5, 2026, to buyers in India.

The licence authorises transactions related to the sale, delivery, and offloading of such cargoes at Indian ports until April 4, 2026, provided the purchaser is an entity organised under Indian law.

While the order says the licence is valid for buying crude available at sea, including on sanctioned vessels, it does not explicitly state if purchases can be made from sanctioned entities, another official said.

The refiners will seek legal opinion if such purchases are allowed, the official added.

Sources said Indian refiners have stepped up purchases of Russian oil floating around. About 15 million barrels of Russian crude are currently floating on tankers in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal, while vessels carrying another 7 million barrels are idling near Singapore, cargoes that can reach Indian refiners within days. Additional tankers are in the Mediterranean Sea and near the Suez Canal.

Sources said Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd, which hadn't purchased Russian oil since December, are back in the market. Reliance Industries Ltd, too, is seeking Russian oil deliveries.

Govt invokes ESMA, asks refiners to boost LPG output

NEW DELHI, DHNS: With the West Asian crisis posing risks to India's energy supplies, the Centre invoked ESMA, and has directed oil refineries to ramp up LPG production to ensure sufficient availability of domestic cooking gas.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has issued an order invoking the Essential Commodities Act of 1955 (ESMA), directing Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd, and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd, to maximise their LPG output. The LPG produced must be sold only to domestic households for cooking, the order states, adding that any contravention will attract penal action.

"All oil refining companies operating in India shall maximise and ensure that propane and butane streams produced, recovered, fractionated, or otherwise available with them are utilised for the production of LPG and made available only to the public sector OMCs," the order reads.

"All oil refining companies shall not divert, utilise, process, crack, convert, or otherwise employ propane or butane streams for the manufacture of petrochemical products or other such downstream derivatives," it adds.

The order is applicable to both government as well as private refineries. The ESMA allows the Centre to direct Indian companies to increase production of commodities facing a supply shortfall, an official said.

The order comes into force with immediate effect and will remain in force until further orders from the Centre. While India has surplus oil refining capacity, it is short in LPG production.

West Asia conflict to affect pharma exports to GCC, WANA regions

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Indian pharmaceutical exports to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and West Asia-North Africa (WANA) region would be significantly impacted because of the ongoing challenges in the global freight market, following the US-Israel strikes on Iran and subsequent retaliation.

Expressing concern over the situation, the Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil) said it is closely monitoring the situation and is actively engaging with stakeholders in the logistics and trade sectors to explore ways to mitigate the impact on pharmaceutical exports, especially in the GCC and WANA regions.

The GCC countries comprise Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE. The WANA region comprises Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Iraq, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Sudan, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Syria, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Yemen, Libya, and South Sudan.

Big losses

"Given the significant importance of this market for pharmaceutical products, a complete disruption of March's exports could result in a potential loss of approximately Rs 2,500 to Rs 5,000 crore for the Indian pharmaceutical industry," Pharmexcil Chairman Namit Joshi said on Friday.

Flipkart cuts nearly 300 jobs after performance reviews

BENGALURU, DHNS: Ecommerce major Flipkart has cut 250-300 jobs, following annual performance reviews. These job cuts account for about 2% of its workforce.

According to sources, every year, Flipkart conducts performance reviews, and this is a part of routine performance management. However, 300 employees are asked to leave at a time when the company is planning its IPO soon. In a statement to *DH*, the company said, "Flipkart conducts regular performance reviews aligned with clearly-defined expectations. As part of this process, a small percentage of employees may transition from the organisation. We are supporting affected employees with transition support."

Sources added that the company has been increasing its workforce. Recently, the Flipkart Group announced two senior leadership appointments. Vipin Kapooria rejoined as Vice-President, Business Finance, and Yogita Shanbhag has been appointed Vice-President, Human Resources.

Flipkart has been carrying out similar performance reviews every year, and two years ago, it had let go of about 1,000 employees.

Airbus opens tech centre in B'luru

BENGALURU, DHNS: Airbus on Friday inaugurated the Airbus India Technology Centre in Bengaluru. The new facility will serve as a hub for engineering, digital transformation, customer services and procurement, establishing a new nerve centre for the company's 'Make in India' mission.

The centre was inaugurated by DyCM DK Shivakumar and Industries Minister MB Patil, while Civil Aviation Minister Rammohan Naidu Kinjarapu attended the event virtually.

"The Airbus India Technology Centre represents a strategic acceleration in our journey in India, providing the scale and headroom for our next phase of growth," said Jürgen Westermeier, President and MD of Airbus in India and South Asia.

Women's Day Special
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ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ
ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ಎಮ್.ಕೆ. ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ-591118
TOWN PANCHAYATH COUNCIL M K HUBBALLI -591118
ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ರಾಜ್ಯ :ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ

EMAIL: itstaff_ulb mkhubballi@yahoo.com Ph. No: 08288-274046
website:http://www.mkhubballitown,mrc.gov.in

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ:ಪಪಂ.ಎಂ.ಕೆ.ಹು:ಟೋಕೋ ವಿಭಾಗ:/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06/03/2025

Tender Notification

Through Karnatak public procurement portal

Under the Chief Ministers infrastructure development project grant for the year 2025-26 as per Karnataka Public Procurement Transparency Order 1999-2000 Act 2000 as per Standard Bid Document K.W-3, KW-4 rule tenders are invited. Interested contractors can submit tenders only through Karnatak public procurement portal at the Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

SL. No.	Details of Works / Indent	Amount (In lakhs)	EMD Amount (in Rs.)
1	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT55501	81.55	1,63,103/-
2	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT55507	80.92	1,61,841/-
3	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT55509	81.83	1,63,673/-
4	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT55535	115.04	1,72,560/-

Before submitting the tender, the contractor must read and follow the rules and regulations relating to the tenders.

Commencement date of downloading the Tender form from website: 07-03-2026.
Last Date for Uploading (Upload) Filled Tenders: 25-03-2026 Evening: Upto 4:00 Hrs.
Date of Opening of Tenders: 26-03-2026 will be opened after 4:00 PM.
For more information and conditions, visit the website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Chief Officer, Town Panchayat M.K.Hubballi
Sd/- President, Town Panchayat M.K.Hubballi
DIPO/RO/No-2013/2025-26

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer,
C.V. Ramannagar Division, 8th Cross, 12th A Main Road, HAL 2nd Stage, Indiranagara, Bengaluru-560038

No.: EE/CVR/KPPP/11/2025-26 Date: 06.03.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through GOK KPPP Portal only) (Two Cover System)

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the undersigned for the work mentioned below from the registered contractors of **Bengaluru Central City Corporation** or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations. **(Standard Tender Document - KW-01)**

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Providing Emergency Relief task force team to CV Ramannagar Sub Division Control Room for the year 2025-26 (For 07 Month). **Est. Cost in Lakhs: 14.00, EMD (in Rupees): Rs. 35,000/-**
2	Providing Emergency Relief task force team to Jeevanbhimanagar Sub Division Control Room for the year 2025-26 (For 07 Month). **Est. Cost in Lakhs: 14.00, EMD (in Rupees): Rs. 35,000/-**

Calendar of events: (1) Tender Document can be downloaded from the GOK e-procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. (2)** Last date for uploading filled proposals **16.03.2026** upto **4:00 p.m. (3)** Date of opening of Technical Proposals is **17.03.2026** at **4:30 p.m. (4)** Date of opening of Financial Proposals after approval of Technical Proposals through e-procurement. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, C.V. Raman Nagar Division, BCCC

Government Of Karnataka ZillaPanchayat Chitradurga
Office of the District Ayush Officer
Old K.S.R.T.C. Depot Road, H. M.T. Compound, Church Extenson Chitradurga 577501
Phone: 08194-234113 e-mail id daochitradugra2021@gmail.com

REF NO: DAOCTA/10/EST(3)/NAM/2025-26 DATE: 05-03-2026

Publication of E-Tender

(Through E-procurement portal only)

E-tender is invited for the supply of essential medical equipment/furniture for the year 2025-26 for 14 Government Ayurveda Clinics, Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AYUSH) upgraded under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme National AYUSH Abhiyan in two-envelope system as per KTPP rules for Rs. 69.00 lakhs. E-Tender Details.
(1) Tender Estimated Amount Rs: 69.00 Lakhs **(2)** E.M.D. Amount (Through e-procurement Portal only Tender amount As per 2%) Rs: 1,72,500/- **(3)** Commencement date for downloading tender documents on e-portal 05-03-2026 **(4)** Pre-Bid Meeting 13-03-2026 Afternoon 3:00 PM **(5)** Last date for uploading tender documents through e-portal 20-03-2026 at Evening 5.00 PM **(6)** Date and place of opening of technical bid 23-03-2026 Morning 11.00 AM District AYUSH Officers, Office of District AYUSH Office, Chitradurga, **(7)** Date and Place of opening of financial bid Date will be fixed after verification of technical bid documents. Office of District AYUSH Officers, Chitradurga **(8)** E-Tender Notification Publish No AYD/2025-26/IND0173 Upload the necessary documents in e-Procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in within the last date.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/735/2025-26
Sd/-District AYUSH Officer Chitradurga

(Government of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
Bengaluru Urban District, K.G Road, Bengaluru

No. MAG(4)/MIS/CR/123/23-24 Date:02.03.2026

Notification Regarding Appointment of a Member from Civil Society to the Bengaluru Urban District Police Complaints Authority

In accordance with Section 20D of the Karnataka Police (Amendment) Act, 2012, and with a view to enabling the public to lodge complaints against Deputy Superintendents of Police and officers of lower rank, the District Police Complaints Authority has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Urban District.

As per Section 20D (i) of the said Act, provision has been made for the appointment of one member from civil society to the Authority, in addition to the other members. The eligible candidate shall be a retired Civil Service Officer not below the rank of Assistant Commissioner.

Applicants seeking appointment to the said post must be retired Civil Service Officers not below the rank of Assistant Commissioner. The applicant shall be physically and mentally fit to effectively discharge the duties associated with the position, including participation in inquiries and investigations. Further, the applicant must not be affiliated with any political party or ideological organization.

Applications are hereby invited from eligible individuals for appointment as a Member from Civil Society to the Bengaluru Urban District Police Complaints Authority. Interested candidates shall submit their application along with detailed biodata to the Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Urban District, K.G. Road, Bengaluru, within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notification.

Sd/-
Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate Bengaluru Urban District

DIPR/CP/6026/Zen/2025-26

Mihir's clever plan

Kavitha Mandana writes about a boy who refuses to let coaching classes take away his sister's carefree school days

Mihir groaned and pulled the quilt over his head to muffle the loud voices outside his room. Reaching for his phone, he discovered it was 5 o'clock....Who was arguing this early, he wondered.

As the volume grew louder outside, he heard Mama and Anu akka at it again... akka had overslept, when she was supposed to be up at 4.30 am to study for her physics test!

A week later, as Mihir barged into the kitchen after school, smelly, ravenous and looking for munchies, his parents were so engrossed in a discussion that neither nagged him, as they always did, to have a bath first.

Papa, absently scrolling through the website of some integrated coaching centre, said, "These centres will instil some discipline in Anu, I feel."

And that was it... within days, Papa and Mama had checked out not one but five coaching centres.

Mihir began to panic. So Akka, just approaching her eighth grade finals, was also going to 'vanish', like his buddy Dinesh's elder brother Bansi? Two years back, when Bansi anna got into grade nine and was all set to captain the school cricket team, he had also enrolled at an integrated coaching centre that prepped students for both the 12th boards and the JEE engineering college entrance exams simultaneously.

Mihir hadn't seen him even once since then — neither at Dinesh's house, where he hung out pretty often, nor on the cricket pitch.

"But akka, can't you say 'No' to Papa? The JEE is four years away... you don't need to start mugging up now," Mihir grumbled, as they both sipped masala chai on the balcony.

But akka wasn't convinced. "Bro, I think I need coaching... engineering is my dream, not Papa's or Ma's. I won't get into a good college on my own."

"Nonsense!" Mihir thundered, spilling hot tea on himself in the process. "Akka, everyone in class borrows your physics notes that you gave me! The new chemistry teacher was so impressed when I showed him how you explained stuff to me. He actually said, 'Your sister will go places...' Imagine... all that without any tuitions!"

Akka laughed and then shook her head. "Mihir, my friends are enrolling at these places starting this summer."

Mihir couldn't bear the thought of Anu akka disappearing into a coaching centre for four full years. Who would he play board games with? And who would he race with down the hill from their apartment to the bus stand?

He began working on his parents first. One day, as Ma and he were making sandwiches, he said, "Next year will be the very first time Akka won't be in the school play... she'll have to give that up."

Ma didn't reply, but her worried expression told Mihir he'd hit a nerve.

Just to drive home his point, he added, "And no trips to Mangaluru to see Ajji-Thatha, no swimming in the summer, no badminton at the court downstairs... hope akka can handle this."

With akka herself, he switched tactics. He knew that, at this moment in her life, she wanted to be an engineer (though three years back, she'd dreamt of being a vet!). He was also certain that she, of all people, did not need a four-year-long coaching regimen to get good marks.

"How about if I become your official alarm clock, so that you never oversleep on test days?" Or "I too will finish my homework as you study and make your favourite mushroom omelette every morning?" Or "Imagine... after two years, in grade 11, you decide you don't want to be an engineer... then what happens? You'd have wasted two good years of your life sitting in a coaching centre!"

That last remark did get Anu akka thinking. She remembered that till recently she'd dreamt of running an animal shelter.

With Papa, Mihir kept sharing horror stories of what excess studies and pressure did to the teenage brain. How coaching centres led to kids just mugging up but losing their love for learning.

Soon, 12-year-old Mihir's three-pronged strategy began to work! With him now as akka's guaranteed human alarm, both her test scores and his improved. His mushroom omelettes got so good, he began offering options of cheese or spinach omelettes too — all at 5 in the morning!

One day he overheard Ma telling a friend, "These should be the most carefree time of a child's life... why do we focus only on an exam four years away, I wonder?"

And later that night he heard Papa tell Ajji, "These coaching programmes really cut a child off from all family life — their schedule is so jam-packed. Anu will miss her daily badminton and Scrabble games with Mihir. They even have classes on weekends... when will we talk to her?"

At that moment Mihir knew he had won! At least through grade 9, he knew he still had akka! He began checking online for new omelette recipes, certain that his mushroom and spinach specials had played an important role in akka's decision to coach herself.

3 DIY experiments using lemon

...and a few simple kitchen items

Invisible ink

Materials needed
- Lemon juice
- Cotton bud or paintbrush
- White paper
- Lamp or warm iron (adult supervision will be needed)

Method
1) Take half a lemon and squeeze juice out of it into a bowl.
2) Dip a cotton bud into the lemon juice.
3) Use the cotton bud to write a secret message on the white paper.
4) Let the paper dry completely. The writing will disappear.
5) Ask an adult to gently heat the paper using a lamp or a warm iron.
6) Watch as the hidden message slowly appears in brown.

What's happening?
When heated, the acids in lemon juice oxidise and turn brown, revealing the hidden writing on the paper.

Curdling magic

Materials needed
- 1 cup milk (preferably warm)
- 1-2 teaspoons lemon juice
- Bowl or glass
- Spoon

Method
1) Pour the milk into a bowl or glass.
2) Add one or two teaspoons of lemon juice.
3) Stir gently with a spoon. Wait for a few seconds.
4) Watch the milk separate into small lumps.

What's happening?
Lemon juice is acidic, and when added to milk it causes the proteins to clump together into curds. The same process is used to make paneer.

Tiny volcano

Materials needed:
- 1 lemon
- Baking soda
- Spoon

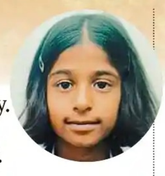
Method
1) Cut a lemon into halves.
2) Sprinkle one spoon of baking soda on one half of the lemon.
3) Press or squeeze the lemon slightly so the juice mixes with the baking soda.
4) Watch the mixture bubble and fizz like a tiny volcano.

What's happening?
Lemon juice is acidic and baking soda is a base. When they mix they react to release carbon dioxide gas, creating the bubbling fizz.

If I had wings...

Open Sesame readers write poetry about the adventures they would have if they could fly

Endless blue



If I had wings, I'd touch the sky
And watch the clouds go drifting by.
I'd fly where golden sunsets glow,
And feel the gentle winds that flow.
Above the noise, above the ground,
I'd find the peace I never found.
With quiet dreams and open eyes,
I'd paint my hopes across the skies.
So free, so light, my heart would sing,
In endless blue, I'd try everything.
With fearless joy, my soul takes swings,
That's the life I'd live if I had wings.
AKANKSHA L, 12
Bengaluru, Karnataka

Silver dreams

If I had wings, I'd fly so high,
Above the clouds, across the sky.
I'd touch the stars that softly gleam,
And drift inside a silver dream.
I'd visit mountains capped with snow,
And watch the shining rivers flow.
I'd circle Earth from town to town,
And never let my spirit down.
I'd spread my wings to help and care,
Bringing smiles everywhere.
If I had wings, strong and free,
The whole wide world would welcome me.
VEDHIKA S M, 12
Hubballi, Karnataka

Flying back home

If I had wings,
I would fly so high.
I would touch the rainbow
And go above the clouds.
I would dance with the stars,
And walk with the moon in the quiet night.
If I had wings, I would fly
Over the mountains, rivers, and the big blue sea.
I would visit places near and far,
Flying faster than a plane.
If I had wings, I would fly
Back home no matter how far I am,
Because my heart will always say
Home is the best place for my wings.
RITANYA PATIL, 6,
Tumakuru, Karnataka

Soaring spirit

If I had wings, I would fly so high
In the soft blue sky above the clouds.
I would glide over mountains and sparkling seas,
And dance with the wind and whispering breezes.
I would visit forest paths and meadows,
Where birds and butterflies happily glide.
I would travel like a wonder-seeking wanderer,
Feeling the golden sunrise scatter across the horizon.
I would fly at sunset's golden hour,
Listening as the rivers softly sing.
Then I would return home before night,
Dreaming again of my magic wings.
UPENDRA R GOWDA, 12, Bengaluru, Karnataka

Sky adventure

If I have wings,
I could see many a thing.
I would fly over the forest,
And I would rest in my nest.
I would fly up in the sky,
And touch that blue cloud.
If I could swim just like a fish,
I'd give my little tail a swish.
If I had wings on which to fly,
I could hear the eagles cry.
The eagle is angry,
My little stomach is hungry.
VIKHYATH H, 12
Bengaluru, Karnataka

LET'S DEBATE!

Want to take part in the upcoming *Open Sesame* debate? Share your thoughts in a crisp 200-word essay on the topic 'Should schools teach life skills like cooking and budgeting?' Mail your works to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in.* Entries close on March 19. Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, school, and city. And send us a recent photograph.

ART CORNER

Love painting?

Want to showcase your flair for colours? Send your paintings on the theme 'Welcome spring' to *Open Sesame* and stand a chance to get featured in an upcoming edition. Mail photographs of your work to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in.* Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, and city. And send us a recent photograph of yourself. Entries close on March 12.

Word of the Week

rickety

(adjective)

— likely to break; not strongly made

Usage:
— The old house had a rickety staircase that creaked whenever someone climbed it.
— The company's rickety financial plan collapsed within a few months.

This Week:

Famous female firsts

Open Sesame Quiz

Take the fun Open Sesame quiz, and stand a chance to win gift vouchers worth Rs 500. Open to children below 16 years.

Q1 Kalpana Chawla was told that "only guys want to do aerospace engineering", but this first woman of Indian origin to fly to space mastered that field. Which city was her birthplace?

Q2 On March 21, 1974, the Royal Albert Hall, London, was the venue of a concert by the first Indian playback singer to perform there. Who was that vocalist?

Q3 Savitribai Phule became India's first professionally trained headmistress and teacher. Which year did she and her husband establish the first school for girls at Bhide Wada, in Pune?

Scan the QR code
Or visit bit.ly/DHopensesame to participate in the quiz.

Q4 **Rhyme Time:** Two clues to which the answers rhyme with each other.
Clue A: Rajkumari Amrit Kaur was independent India's first woman cabinet __.
Clue B: Threatening or suggesting evil or harm.

Q5 **Clue Cluster:** Who was the first woman governor of West Bengal? Use these clues.
a) Red Cross
b) Govindrajulu
c) Sarojini
d) Freedom fighter

WINNER'S NAMES: Rajesh (12), Bengaluru; Pragathi (9), Mandya; Varsha (13), Chitradurga.
ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S QUIZ: A1) Thomas Pennant, A2) Left, A3) Winter, A4) Ice/Vice , A5) Churchill.

CROSSWORD

BY CHITTARANJAN ANDRADE

Across

1 Overseas (6)
4 Unopened flower (3)
7 Large woody plant with aerial roots (6,4)
8 One-twelfth of a foot (4)
10 Sign of (usually) ill tidings (4)
15 Sour fruit (10)
16 Something that does not work (3)
17 Evaluate (6)

Down

1 Book containing photographs (5)
2 Kidnapper's demand (6)
3 Half-open (door) (4)
5 Action (4)
6 Astound (4)
9 Hurtle forward (6)
11 Otherwise (4)
12 Deep chasm (5)
13 Old (4)
14 Flows out (tide) (4)

ANSWERS
Across: 1 Abroad, 4 Bud, 7 Banyan tree, 8 Inch, 10 Omen, 15 Gooseberry, 16 Dud, 17 Assess.
Down: 1 Album, 2 Ransom, 3 Ajar, 5 Deed, 6 Stun, 9 Charge, 11 Else, 12 Abyss, 13 Aged, 14 Ebbs.

An impulsive and reckless sled took me to

SIX OLYMPICS

At 16, Shiva Keshavan was the only Indian participating in the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan. Today, at 44, he recounts his thrilling journey as a rare winter sports athlete from India

Flag-bearer Shiva Keshavan leads the Indian contingent at the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea. PIC SOURCE: X

CRASH! Little did I know that a crash in 1995 would be the first of several over the next 23 years. A 13-year-old me had ended up in a ditch and damaged the sled. Falling or getting hurt wasn't new. Gymnastics, athletics, football, and hockey, played during the summer months, had exposed me to both, and trained me to endure pain.

But the feeling of exhilaration while I zoomed downhill was something I would get addicted to for life. The blur of speed, the cold air rushing over my body, the thrill of chasing time.... it was a journey that no individual in India had tried before.

I was born in a tiny Himalayan village called Vashisht, 3 km from Manali, across the Beas river in Himachal Pradesh. It holds a special significance in our mythology, because sage Vashisht was the guru of Ram and Lakshman, and this was his village.

Growing up in a rural mountain setting, where community life is based on outdoor activities, was a blessing because it taught me life lessons early. During the winters, we were cut off from the entire world. We had to fend for ourselves without electricity. For the kids, mountaineering, sledging and skiing were the top fun activities. There was already a budding winter sports community in the region, and as I grew older, I took skiing courses from a private school in Manali.

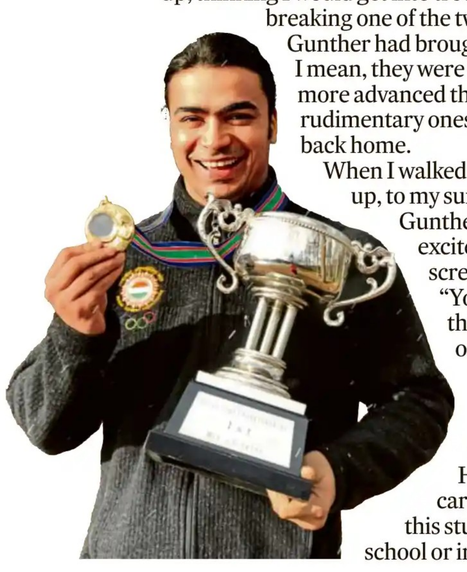
Both my parents were adventurers. My father (originally from Kerala) was one of the first to set up adventure touring company in that part of the world. My mother, an Italian, had travelled to India by land, and was an athlete and national-level volleyball player in Italy. Sports came naturally to me.

Getting scouted

The crash occurred during a scouting programme hosted by the International Luge Federation (ILF) under an Austrian coach, Gunther Lemmerer. He was a former world champion. The programme was organised by the Indian Amateur Luge Association. Since I was already excelling at sports and had won many national medals in skiing, the boarding school I was studying in (the Lawrence School, Sanawar) nominated me for the programme. About 30-40 of us gathered for a week-long trial.

My friends and I would make wooden sleds with ball bearings for wheels. Sometimes we would use wood to make the wheels. And off we would go, sledding down the mountains. It was our favourite pastime. This experience, of knowing how to use a sled and anticipate turns, gave me an edge. For the selections, the hosts had cordoned off a small part of the highway around Kalka in the Shivalik mountains.

Lying face up on a rectangular tray-like piece of equipment and zipping down the road wasn't out of the ordinary for me. In fact, it was mundane. So on the last day, I decided to go on my own trip when I overshot the barrier and continued down the state highway until I went off-road and down the ditch. It felt amazing! I remember hopping onto a tractor to go back up, thinking I would get into trouble for breaking one of the two sleds Gunther had brought along. I mean, they were so much more advanced than the rudimentary ones we made back home.



Keshavan has won 10 Asian Luge Championship medals.

When I walked back up, to my surprise, Gunther was excited. He screamed, "You are the kind of young person the sport of luge needs." Had I carried out this stunt at school or in front of my parents, I would have been reprimanded. But in the eyes of this big Austrian guy, I had done something amazing. Shortly after my heroics that day, I received an invitation from the ILF to be a part of their fully-funded development camp in Austria.

Up in the Alps

And just like that, one impulsive slide had helped the Himalayan boy fly to the mountain town of Igls in the Alps, just off Innsbruck in Austria. It was here that I first saw and got access to a professional luge track. When the rookie me entered the facility, I heard a loud 'whoosh' similar to the one made by a jet plane. As a reflex, I looked up because planes would pass overhead in our village and it was a spectacle with all of us looking skyward.

But this wasn't a jet, it was a sled coming down the track at 130 km per hour with G-force (gravitational force equivalent) ranging from 4G to 6G. I was awe-struck. This is what I had come here to do. From potholed open roads with trucks and vehicles to this — a closed ice-walled canal perpendicular to the ground with 18 curves. There were two of us from India among the junior and senior athletes from around the world. We got a bit of extra attention from the locals and athletes.

I had no equipment, sport-specific clothing, shoes or visor. On my first run, I took off from the ninth curve wearing a tracksuit that ballooned and blocked my sight. I kept punching it down. It felt like the highway again. The dangerous mix of being on the edge while speeding down and free falling had truly become my essence. I had discovered my purpose, and I decided to chase it relentlessly.

Since my nationality had garnered curiosity, many juniors gathered around me at the base after my first run. "Have you ever seen snow in your life?" was the most common question followed by laughter. I told them: "Look, I come from a place where the mountains are much bigger than these." They were interested in my culture. We got talking and I made a lot of friends. Soon, a guy handed me his old suit, another gave me his shoes, and a third handed me a helmet. They were keen to make my experience better.

Community effort

People from across the world coming together to support my dream became one of the driving forces of my career. Individuals and corporate houses came forward to get me the right equipment, coach me, and support me financially throughout my career. It was a community of my own.

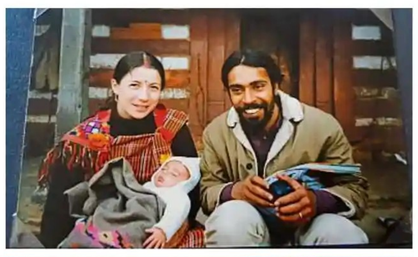
The coaches and the programme heads decided to invite me to more events in the following two years. Back in India, I was still skiing competitively. But despite winning medals at the nationals and qualifying for the junior Asian Championships, I was left out. The sport was under arbitrary governance with a lot of favouritism. I took it as a sign and stopped skiing in 1996. Eventually, the luge facility in Igls became my training base and second home. It was in 1997 that another trial run here flipped the script for me completely.

The Olympics were nowhere in my vision. I wasn't even remotely considering it. The World Cup circuit had come to Igls, with serious professionals walking around with their team kits. I was mesmerised. But the media were interested in the 16-year-old Indian training at the facility. "Have you ever seen snow in your country?" was the question I again had to answer multiple times.

Anyway, the organisers observed the attention I was getting and thought it would be ideal for me to be the official opener (someone who tests the track before the actual race starts). As I knew the conditions well, I wanted to put on my best run. When I finished, the coach was all excited. "The timing that you posted in this opener would have made you eligible to compete in this race. All you have to do is do the same run five times in five World Cups and you will qualify for the Olympics at the end of the winter," he said.

It opened my eyes. The ILF got involved, and they convinced my parents to allow me to compete at the four-month World Cup cycle. Out of the five chances, had I messed up even a single one, I would have been eliminated. With hand-me-down equipment, I was competing with professionals double my age, but I was successful in all five attempts and booked my ticket to my first Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan in 1998.

Keshavan in action during various Winter Olympics from 1998 to 2018. PIC SOURCE: X



Keshavan with his parents Sudhakaran and Rosalba (above) and his wife Namita (below).

Wet blanket

I felt a sense of accomplishment. Almost immediately, I was also appalled by the ridicule from one of the bureaucrats at the Sports Ministry when they had to get the paperwork done. They called it 'fake Olympics,' and insisted I produce a certificate to prove that the Winter Olympics was the real deal! It was an important lesson early on about how this contradiction would always co-exist. Those who believe and those who mock. Those who encourage and those who dismiss. The few who appreciate my effort and the many who label it insignificant.

Thankfully, as a sportsperson, I have always focused on the positives. While my family got busy taking loans, some pressure from the media and my father's frantic follow-ups saw the ministry clear my documents. I landed in Japan and was the only athlete representing India at the Winter Olympics. At 16, I became the youngest luge athlete (a record that still stands) to compete at a Winter Olympics.

Nagano in 1998 was my first and most special, followed by Salt Lake, USA, in 2002, when I hitchhiked to the venue from Montreal. The Turin, Italy Games in 2006, was the first I competed in with my own sled. Shortly after, I quit the sport because it had become a burden on my parents. That is when my childhood school friend and wife, Namita, took charge and put me back on track. Thousands! The number of sponsors she approached. (Trivia: In 2002, Keshavan declined Italy's offer to represent them — he wanted to stay true to his Indian roots).

Losing a friend

My fourth Winter Olympics in Vancouver, Canada 2010, was the toughest because I lost a friend and competitor from Georgia. He crashed and died on the track during the last practice run, a day before the main race. I had just finished my turn and he was right behind me. Such moments ground you.

The next was Sochi, Russia 2014. It was the most complicated because the Indian Olympic Association was suspended and it created a lot of problems in terms of funding and qualification pathways. (Trivia: A crowdfunded Keshavan had the names of 50,000 donors imprinted on his suit during the Sochi Games).

And the sixth and final one was Pyeongchang, South Korea, in 2018. A lot of people came from India to cheer for me, which was rare, and I competed with my three-year-old daughter watching from the stands. Life had come full circle. I think I had two more Olympics in me. But as I had evolved over two decades, from a teen to a family man, it was time to say goodbye to the grind. (Trivia: Keshavan has won 10 Asian Luge Championship medals — four gold, four silver, and two bronze).

I decided to be the voice for athletes after my retirement, and joined the first ever Athletes Commission of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). Later, coaching the Argentinian team for the next Olympic cycle kept me close to the sport. In the meantime, an opportunity opened up at the Reliance Foundation, where I started leading their Olympic scholarships programme in 2020. Irony? I am now working for the International Ski and Mountaineering Federation (headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland) which seems like a return to my skiing and mountaineering origins. 'Skimo' made its debut at the recently concluded Winter Games in Milano-Cortina, Italy. (Trivia: In 2020, Keshavan became the first Winter Olympian to be honoured with the Arjuna Award).

Status in India

I think there were more winter sports athletes when I was a kid than there are now. We currently don't have a single winter sports association recognised by the government. When I started out, there was the Winter Games Federation of India, which was recognised. Winter games stopped being a priority in 1998. It is sad because this means there will be no funding or development.

The Khelo India Winter Games is a good platform. I was responsible for conducting it in the last three years. However, without a structured pathway from the grassroots all the way to international level, India is losing out. We have an abundance of talent. If we want to compete against the world, where people are counting each millisecond, we must really understand the value of sport.

Eventually, it is not about how many medals you win. It is about creating stories that inspire and uplift, setting examples to promote fitness and health, and earning your country respect on the world stage. The medals and the tag of being a six-time Olympian are nice but sport means so much more — the friendships I made, the learnings I gained from the corners of the world I travelled to, and the experience of putting my own physical and mental limits to the test.

Maybe sporting ambitions look reckless from the outside. For me, it was meditative. I was always in pursuit of my highest potential. The snow, cold air and nature gave me a sense of freedom. Well, going off the beaten track requires you to be a little bit crazy, and that is how we grow.

(As told to Hita Prakash.)

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MUSICANA

Deepikaa Sreenivasan in the male mridangam bastion

The Bengaluru artiste has won several awards and performed on big stages, writes N Krishnamurthy

The mridangam is an indispensable percussion accompaniment in a Karnatik vocal or instrumental concert. It is widely regarded as a physically demanding art form and is mostly dominated by male players. Deepikaa Sreenivasan, a Bengaluru-based mridangam artiste, is among the few women challenging gender disparity in the field.

"I have been performing for over 14 years. But even now, after a concert, people tell me it is the first time they are seeing a woman play the mridangam," says the artiste, in her early 30s. She has won several awards, and was invited to perform at the G20 Summit in 2023.

It was her parents who encouraged her to learn a musical instrument, and she gravitated toward the mridangam. She trained under Patri Satish Kumar, and her playing style reflects her guru's strong influence. Her technique is highly responsive to the vocalist's approach.

The journey was not without its challenges. Finding a teacher was one of the first hurdles her parents faced. And as she began performing, she encountered gender stereotypes, which, she says, remains her biggest challenge to date. Through it all, her guru has helped her navigate and overcome these barriers.

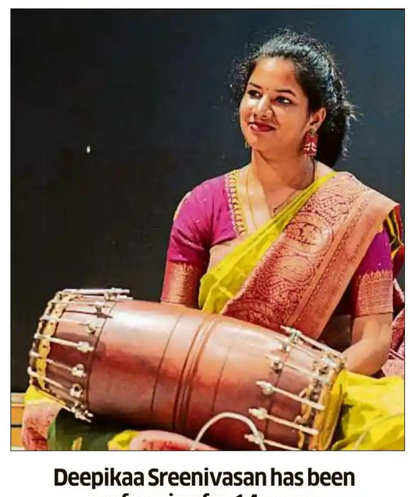
Like Deepika, other women have long sought to carve a space in the field. As early as 1927, Ranganayaki Ammal was the only woman among 27 mridangam artistes to perform at the All India Music Conference in Chennai. Decades later, Sumathi Rama Mohan Rao broke the gender barrier to become a professional mridangam player and went on to receive the Padma Shri in 2021.

Since the early 1900s, male percussionists were reluctant to accompany female vocalists. This inadvertently created space for women artistes like Ranganayaki and Sumathi. In later decades, as male accompanists became more open to performing with female vocalists, opportunities for women percussionists narrowed once again. The scene has changed little since.

During the December 2025 Margazhi music season in Chennai, only two of the 83 concerts at The Music Academy featured female mridangam players and one of them was Deepikaa. Things were no different at the Ramanavami concerts hosted by Sri Rama Seva Mandali in Bengaluru last year.

According to Deepikaa, while many young girls are learning the instrument, most drop out after encountering gender-based challenges and a lack of opportunities. "The onus is on those of us who are already performing. We have to show that it is a viable career," she says. The challenge, she adds, is ensuring that audiences accept women percussionists as musicians in their own right, not as a novelty. She remains optimistic, adding that audiences today are far more accepting than before.

(The author is the founder of a tech company. He writes about music and everyday life.)



Deepikaa Sreenivasan has been performing for 14 years.

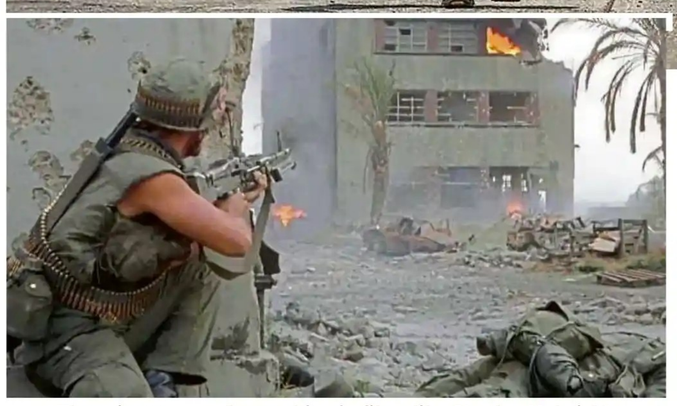
Its war films centre on American trauma while overlooking the victims of its military operations, writes M K Raghavendra

Hollywood and its TOP GUN COMPLEX

Now that the US is engaged in an unprecedented no-holds-barred military action against Iran, how Hollywood has represented such post-WWII engagements in cinema becomes a matter of interest. There is opposition from American liberals to the present war and since Hollywood virtually represents the liberal heart of America, how American liberals might respond to their country sending older civilisations back to the stone-age with its massive fire power could become revealing. The Democrats are apparently opposed to this war not on moral grounds but because it is 'unconstitutional', which hardly matches indignant public opinion outside.

The first two important wars after WWII whose Hollywood representations demand scrutiny are Korea and Vietnam. The most important film dealing with Korea may have been Robert Altman's satirical 'M*A*S*H' (1970). It shows violence and blood but on the operating table — the protagonists are three surgeons posted at the front. Altman was a great satirist but it is perplexing that there is not even a mention of the enemy North Korea, and the action is all on the American side as though the enemy were of little consequence. The film ends not with the conclusion of the war but the three transferred out! This will give the reader some sense of how Americans feel about those they are fighting against — as not even worthy of acknowledging.

Vietnam, nominally an insignificant enemy, humbled the US but there were a number of subsequent films like Oliver Stone's 'Platoon' (1986), Francis Ford Coppola's 'Apocalypse Now' (1979) and Stanley Kubrick's 'Full Metal Jacket' (1987) that re-examined US involvement. There is some soul searching in them but the emphasis, as may be expected, is on what the experience of war did to innocent American boys. The first part of Kubrick's film dealing with training in the US (Parris Island) where these boys are taught to become killers is actually more telling than the second part set in Vietnam. At the climax of 'Full Metal Jacket', a platoon of Marines is matched against a single teenage Viet Cong girl sniper who, when wounded and captured, the boys decide to leave to the rats, until the protagonist intervenes and shoots her dead — as a final act of mercy.



There is some soul-searching in films like Stanley Kubrick's 'Full Metal Jacket', but the emphasis is on what the experience of war did to innocent American boys.

A cliché constantly propagated by liberal Hollywood is that all lives are equal and that (following John Donne) any man's death diminishes oneself. Searching for evidence of belief in this maxim, Ridley Scott's 'Black Hawk Down' (2001) is about American soldiers in Somalia fighting local insurgents. But there is asymmetry in this film in the way the deaths are actually treated. Black Africans are mowed down in enormous numbers and all together — as if they all belonged to a homogeneous mass that could be restocked at will — but the death of each American soldier is scrupulously mourned, and the dying soldier's dignity is never compromised.

There is clearly a fetish around the white body, a tacit understanding that it should not be violated or mutilated. French director Bruno Dumont's film 'Flanders' (2006), about French farmhands recruited to fight a war in an unnamed Muslim country, deliberately subverted the convention by showing a rapist castrated and an incendiary bomb reducing white soldiers to charcoal.

The first Iraq war of 1990-91 brought actual war into the field of entertainment when CNN telecast the happenings on a day-to-day basis. Still, it did not leave a mark on cinema because the war was so one-sided. The second Iraq War however left its mark in films like Kathryn Bigelow's 'The Hurt Locker' (2008), where the ground reality has to be contended with by ordinary soldiers.

But with its massive fire power enough to reduce the landscape to rubble, the US has not done so well in military engagements after WWII. If Iraq was too confusing, the war in Afghanistan left the US looking sheepish. The US had already armed the Taliban against the Soviets and the USSR never recovered from Afghanistan. The US did not learn from this; after much fanfare about 'taking out' Osama Bin Laden holed up in the Tora Bora Mountains, its efforts against a primitive enemy finally came to naught and many Afghans on America's side against the Taliban were eventually left behind to brutal fates by Joe Biden. Since war had become embarrassing Hollywood looked inward at the effects of war upon America itself.

In Clint Eastwood's 'American Sniper', Bradley Cooper plays US Navy SEAL sniper Chris Kyle living his civilian life with PTSD. The film has been criticised for glorifying the atrocities and violence of the polarising Iraq war.

But what Iraq and Afghanistan have done to Hollywood is to make the term PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder) familiar and created a new genre where a veteran from Iraq or Afghanistan finds himself hopeless in civilian life, as in Clint Eastwood's 'American Sniper' (2014). Such military engagements as well as PTSD are now the staple of TV shows and an interesting recent one is 'The Day of the Jackal' (2024). This series about a professional assassin is adapted from Frederick Forsyth's novel. The protagonist is a British sniper from Afghanistan who takes up private assignments when on furlough from the battlefield, killing business rivals for his Turkish employer, and then establishing himself as a full-time professional.

The latest thing in military engagements today is what is termed the 'decapitation' which is to assassinate the leader of the enemy country and kill every one of his replacements as well. How this will work out with Iran is uncertain since to back off now would be humiliation for a country with an ancient culture and civilisation. But Hollywood's military imagination may be fired by the idea of taking out (in President Trump's terms) 'evil people' so effectively.

(The author is a well-known film critic)

FEEDBACK
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MOVIE R | E | V | I | E | W | S

'Hoppers' leaps with wit, humour and heart

SWEEKRUTHI K

★★★★½

Hoppers
English (Theatres)
Director: Daniel Chong
Cast: Piper Curda, Bobby Moynihan, Jon Hamm, Kathy Najimy

The characters are funny and elicit several 'awwws'.

If the funky music and fun premise of its promos were to be trusted, 'Hoppers' promised to be a clear winner. A complex storyline, flawed characters and a rock-solid screenplay ensure this animated film meets and exceeds one's hopes.

Reminiscent of old-school Pixar, 'Hoppers' features the excitable, well-meaning Mabel, determined to save the glade where she grew up. The odds against her include an ambitious politician, a band of scientists, and several 'kings', at different points. Each main character holds a unique, endearing backstory and the narrative takes time to delve briefly into various histories.

Directed by Daniel Chong, creator of the animated series 'We Bare Bears', the movie holds similar charm and a humour that does not underestimate its viewers. Unlike many recent animated releases, the storyline too strays from being predictable. The writing handles moral complexities with an easy hand, aided by very well-timed jokes.

The soundtrack, as previewed in trailers, is catchy. But it does lack a memorable song, with SZA's end-credits track being quite forgettable.

The characters are pleasant, funny and elicit several 'awwws'. Typical to Disney's approach to woodland creatures, there is a mix of large eyes, cuddly creatures and goofy moments, keeping the graphics vibrant throughout. The 'sci-fi' element and mode of communication between species is also a new and interesting piece.

In all, 'Hoppers' comes as a breath of fresh air, bringing that much-loved Pixar combo of being safe for young viewers and yet complex and witty enough to engage adult audiences, making it a highly recommended weekend watch for the whole family. It is full of wit, humour and heart.

Make sure to stay till the absolute end, so you catch the pre and post-credit scenes.

Shining a light on Alaska's bleakness

RASHMI VASUDEVA

★★★½☆

Lost Women of Alaska
English (Discovery +)
Director: Sara Kandasamy
Narrator: Octavia Spencer

The three-part docu follows the murder of two Native Alaskan women.

True crime documentaries have a grammar of their own: cold openings, grisly details delivered by a solemn narrator, and a steady build-up of suspense. 'Lost Women of Alaska', though, opens differently. The camera lingers on sweeping views of the region's icy landscapes, winding roads and dense coniferous forests. All that eye-blinding beauty, however, conceals chilling occurrences — murders, disappearances and killers without remorse.

The three-part documentary, narrated by Octavia Spencer, reconstructs the 'memory-card murders' of two Native Alaskan women between 2018 and 2019. The series does not stop at merely tracing the crime and its perpetrator. Instead, it examines the invisibility of these Native women; women struggling to build lives for themselves on the edges of society and who often become easy prey to alcoholism, exploitation and prostitution.

By the time the killer's face appears on screen, you have already heard his voice, for he has recorded himself while filming the slow and torturous deaths of his victims. So you inevitably form an image in your head. When he finally appears, the shock lies in how 'cutesy' he looks — the friendly, almost boyish face you would see in a toothpaste ad. The real horror lies in his cold insistence on his innocence, despite overwhelming evidence.

This is a difficult watch, but what elevates it is the painstaking effort by its makers to provide social context to the murders. These are not random acts of violence. Rather, the series argues that Alaska has become a landscape where Native women can disappear with frightening ease thanks to the state's vast geography and years of institutional neglect.

A lesson in deduction

AMOGH RAVINDRA

★★★½☆

Young Sherlock
English (Prime Video)
Director: Guy Ritchie
Cast: Hero Fiennes Tiffin, Dónal Finn, Max Irons

Fiennes Tiffin and Finn play Sherlock and Moriarty.

Guy Ritchie's fascination with Sherlock Holmes continues. After punching up Victorian London with his big-screen Holmes films, he now rewinds the clock with 'Young Sherlock' on OTT. His recent streaming ventures suggest he has found a comfortable playground there, delivering slick, entertaining stories with a bit of swagger. This time, he turns to the detective's younger years, when deduction was still more curiosity than calling.

Set in late 1800s Oxford, the series imagines Holmes and his newfound best buddy James Moriarty as teenagers who stumble into their first real mystery. A suspicious death soon opens the door to a wider conspiracy involving secret societies, coded messages, and the kind of intrigue that feels at home in old university corridors. Oxford's libraries, cloisters, and candle-lit hallways provide the right playground for a young mind discovering the thrill of connecting dots.

Hero Fiennes Tiffin plays Holmes with restless curiosity, showing flashes of brilliance yet to settle into the calm certainty audiences recognise. The real spark comes from Dónal Finn as Moriarty, whose charm adds an intriguing edge to their early dynamic. Technically, the series feels unmistakably like a Guy Ritchie production. The visuals are stylish, the editing is slick, and the music carries that playful, mischievous rhythm Ritchie often favours. From the pacing to the tone, everything has that familiar cinematic swagger.

'Young Sherlock' does not solve every puzzle it sets up, but it rarely stops being fun. The series moves with enough charm and energy to keep the mystery engaging even when the clues get messy. After all, even the world's greatest detective had to start somewhere.

The visceral road movie

NIKHIL WAIKER

★★★★☆

Sirât
Spanish, French (Mubi)
Director: Oliver Laxe
Cast: Sergi López, Bruno Núñez Arjona, Richard Bellamy, Stefania Gadda

The road film is set in the deserts of Morocco.

At the start of the decade, road films began gaining favour. In these films, characters seemingly on an aimless journey, find themselves on a path of self discovery. In 'Sirât', interpreted as a third or fourth generation road film, the focus is not just on the journey but also on leaving a visceral impact on the viewers. The sound design and the audio editing, an all-woman sound team (led by Laia Casanova), grips the audience from the first rave scene to the end.

Adding to the mood and the vacant desert ambience of the film, the sound couples with the haunting music (composed by Kangding Ray) to simply transport us to the languid raves in the Moroccan desert. Although, the story (of the father's search for the daughter) forms the backbone of the film structurally, spiritually, the film is much deeper than that. The film expands and contracts, owing to its soundscape and visualscape (by Mauro Herce), like a mirage in the desert. This makes the film an immersive experience, shifting its essence away from mere storytelling to an active escapade for the audience.

Starting with 'You Are All Captains' (which won the FIPRESCI Prize at Cannes in 2010), Oliver Laxe's films seem connected over their devotion towards a multi-lateral audio and visual experience threaded through the build of a story as a frame. Although experiential films are, by no means new Laxe's work distinguishes itself through a specific, almost alchemical convergence of place, performance, and what might be termed a 'cinema of waiting'.

Women actors slam paparazzi accounts

They want action against photographers who post pictures and videos shot from voyeuristic angles, writes Pranati A S

The Kannada film fraternity is speaking out against photographers using voyeuristic angles to shoot women actors at film events.

Sapthami Gowda, the female lead in the blockbuster hit 'Kantara', protested against it earlier this week. "Repeatedly, videos and photographs of female actors at public events are shot and circulated from inappropriate angles, with unnecessary zooms that focus on our bodies rather than our work," she wrote on social media.

Instagram and other social media platforms are replete with titillating images and videos of women actors, reminiscent of paparazzi culture.

"It is part of today's new media," senior journalist Sunayana Suresh tells *Showtime*. "Marketing teams of low-budget films often invite these 'paps' to premieres and events," she says.

Senior female journalists are aware of this, and sometimes alert the actors to what is happening at film events. There are whispers that a senior photographer refuses to shoot women actors in 'salwar kameez'.

Recurring problem

This is not the first time actors have called out paparazzi for such behaviour.

In 2013, Ramya (Divya Spandana) had called out two Bengaluru photographers on the sets of the film 'Neer Dose'. Actors Aindrita Ray, Sharmila Mandre and Priyanka Upendra have also shared similar experiences.

Deepika Padukone, in 2014, called out a leading newspaper for zooming in on her cleavage. She wrote on Twitter (now X): 'Yes I am a woman. I have breasts and a cleavage. You got a problem?'

In 2015, at an event, when photographers positioned their cameras to shoot Aishwarya Rai Bachchan from a low angle, she had told them to "stand up and shift".

Clickbait approach

Apoorva Bharadwaj, known for films like 'Nodidavaru Enantare' and 'Nimma Vastugalige Neeve Javaabdaararu', is appalled that some accounts circulated photos of her in a bikini from a film when they were talking about her efforts as an actor.

"It wasn't even relevant to the news. Photos of actors where the cleavage is visible are picked as clickbait. It is so disrespectful that the focus shifts to our bodies from our work," she says.

When Sapthami called out the paparazzi on social media, many questioned her choice of clothing, and posted obscene comments. "All this happens because these are anonymous accounts. And what a man wears is never discussed," says Apoorva.

No accountability

Films need media, paparazzi and publicity, but accounts posting such videos must be reined in, actor Hitha Chandrashekhar urges.

"We have requested the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce to set clear rules and boundaries," she adds. Some film teams believe any publicity is good publicity, observes Apoorva. "They must look into what kind of people are being invited," she says.

Influenced by Bollywood trends, many YouTubers started these pages on Instagram, says Harish Arasu, who manages public relations for Kannada movies.

"For publicity, many young actors get their pictures taken when they are working out at the gym. This content attracts millions of views on social media, so producers think it is a good way to get the word out about their films. It saves them the Rs 5 lakh they would otherwise have to spend on TV channels," he observes.

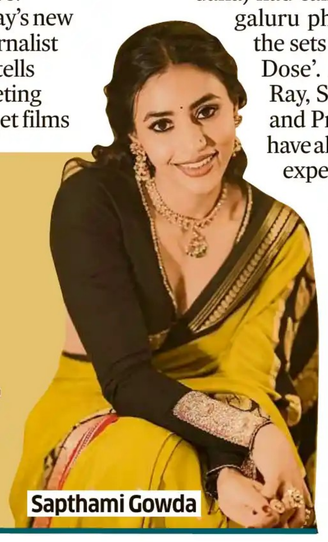
Now that it has turned into a serious problem, Harish says he will invite only those who behave in a dignified manner.

Male gaze extension

Cinema has long used women's bodies to sell male-driven stories. Paparazzi culture follows the same logic — sexualised framing from a voyeuristic gaze.

"It is a result of years of conditioning," says Hitha. "Our society is still largely conservative; people ask 'why are you wearing such clothes' instead of 'why are you shooting her like that'."

"Films and society mirror each other. Women are raised to guard their dignity and bodies, and men exploit that vulnerability," Apoorva says, adding that she finds it perplexing when women put down other women.



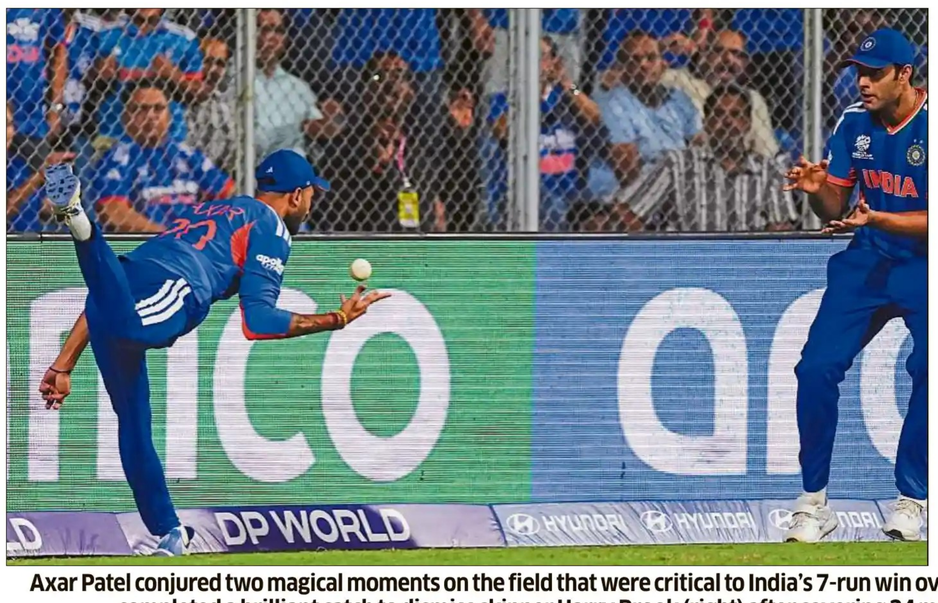
Sapthami Gowda

Paparazzi history

Paparazzi refers to freelance photographers who aggressively follow and photograph celebrities to sell candid, often intrusive, photos to tabloids.

The term is derived from Paparazzo, a character played by Walter Santesso, a persistent and intrusive photographer, in Federico Fellini's 1960 film 'La Dolce Vita'.

Modern-day paparazzi have migrated to social media, where algorithms, followers and view counts drive visibility and profit.



Axar Patel conjured two magical moments on the field that were critical to India's 7-run win over England in the semifinal of the T20 World Cup in Mumbai on Thursday. In the fifth over he completed a brilliant catch to dismiss skipper Harry Brook (right) after covering 24 metres while backpeddling all the time. In the 14th over, he grabbed Will Jacks' catch while running to his left and relayed it to Shivam Dube before he lost his balance and slided over the line. PTI

UNDERSTATED YET EFFECTIVE

The Gujarat cricketer embodies a true sense of the word all-rounder

SIDNEY KIRAN
MUMBAI, DHNS

Very often in cricket, in fact team sports in general, you'll come across players and coaches using the phrase "I don't believe in statistics". And there's plenty of truth to it.

While statistics do reveal the real performers of a game, like a centurion or a goal scorer, they can at the same time conceal contributions from other members that would've had a significant impact on the outcome of the match. Down memory lane, their names in the scoresheet may just be a footnote or missing altogether, but for the ones who watched the game, their acts of momentary brilliance were the difference-makers.

Take the pulsating T20 World Cup semifinal between India and England at the Wankhede Stadium on a warm Thursday night, where a whopping 499 runs were scored, leaving the boisterous fans wanting for more. The humdinger will best be remembered for Sanju Samson's Player of the Match performance of 89 off 42 balls for India and an exceptional 105 off 48 balls by England's Jacob Bethell, the prodigious 22-year-old who almost threatened to destroy India's party.

As balls soared into the stands a record 33 times in a T20 World Cup game and bowlers reduced to mere spectators amidst the breathless onslaught from the batters, Axar Patel's two moments of magic on the field, especially the second one, were pivotal to India's 7-run win in a high-octane game.

First was a superb catch running from covers till the deep, covering a distance of 24 metres to dismiss the dangerous Harry Brook in the fifth over. Then came the game-changer in the 14th over. Steaming like a freight train to his left from deep cover, an off-balance Axar relayed an aerial ball bound for six to Shivam Dube, who held on to it easily. Records will show 'Will Jacks c Shivam Dube b Arshdeep Singh 35', but the man behind breaking a 77-run stand that was threatening to take the match away from India was Axar.

Add the wicket of Tom Banton and three overs for 35 runs — decent under the circumstances — the unassuming southpaw's contribution in India's win was no less valuable than Samson's whirlwind knock or the irrepressible Jasprit Bumrah's frugal display of death bowling. In a way, that's Axar in a nutshell— unassuming yet extremely effective in whatever he does.

In team sports, or even at workplaces, sometimes a person's value is understood better during their absence. Superstar performers attract natural attention, but the guys who fly under the radar and do all the dirty work often go unnoticed. It's when they are missing in action that the team realises the value they bring to the table.

Axar, one of the heroes of the 2024 World Cup final triumph against South Africa with his momentum-shifting 31-ball 47, was benched from India's final group affair against the Netherlands despite being the vice-captain of the team. While there was some logic in that move because India had secured their Super Eights ticket and wanted to try out Washington Sundar, who was returning from injury, the 32-year-old's absence in the Super 8s game versus South Africa at home ground — the Narendra Modi Stadium — befuddled many, including him.

As fate would have it, Sundar didn't fare well in the two games, and with India staring down the barrel following a massive defeat against the Proteas, India were forced to summon Axar back again for the must-win Zimbabwe game. Since then, Axar, who has grown from being a Ravindra Jadeja understudy at the start of his career to crafting his own legacy, has shown what an invaluable asset he is to the team.

As a bowler, he's an extremely wily operator, sticking to wicket-to-wicket lines when the surface is flat but getting the ball to turn and bounce when there's help on offer. He's street-smart at reading the situation of the game and alters his lines and lengths as per the needs. As a batter, he can be used anywhere. He can slog in Power Plays when promoted, drop anchor in the middle overs if there's a collapse, and can use the long handle effectively if he has to just come and slog at the death. On the field, he pulls off some stunning catches and is tigerish while manning the ropes; the throws flat and sharp, just like Jadeja.

In short, he's the perfect definition of an all-rounder. More importantly, he's an indispensable member of the team, minus the superstar aura that accompanies players like Bumrah or Virat Kohli. It's greatness of a simple kind.

Axar excited to play the final at home ground

A little over a decade since making his international debut, the unassuming Axar Patel is close to realising a childhood dream — playing an ICC event at his home ground, the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. Axar was close to achieving that during this T20 World Cup, but India, surprisingly, benched him during the two back-to-back matches they played there last month, reports Sidney Kiran from Mumbai.

Now, following an impactful performance in the semifinal against England, Axar is all set to play the final at the gigantic venue in front of his family. The 32-year-old, grinning from ear to ear in his interaction with the media, said he can't wait for the final against New Zealand on Sunday.

"I think that's why I didn't play those two matches (as I had to play the final)," joked Axar. "It is very important for me. I have been waiting for so many years. It is a very proud moment to play a match in front of your family on the home ground. I think after two years, I will be playing at my home ground. And that too, the final of the ICC T20 World Cup. I think my son will also watch my first match live. And that's what I am very proud of."

I was trying a bit too much during the NZ series: Samson

SIDNEY KIRAN
MUMBAI, DHNS

Today, Sanju Samson **(in pic)** is the toast of the town. Following his belligerent 97 not out in a virtual quarterfinal against the West Indies last Sunday and an equally breathtaking 89 against England in the semi-finals on Thursday, fans can't have enough of him. Commentators are searching for adjectives to hail his spectacular shot-making, while long-time admirers are happy to see the gifted cricketer finally make his rich talent talk.

But there was a time, not too long ago, when Samson was the talk of the town, for all the wrong reasons.

Samson, with joy firmly replacing despair, said the series against New Zealand was extremely challenging, but he remained strong by cutting out all the outside noise. "That was very challenging for me. I think I definitely wanted to come and do what I am trying to do now for the country, contribute and win games in the World Cup. But I think I was trying a bit too much in the New Zealand series. I wanted to make an impact and get into the playing XI of the World Cup here," said Samson in the post-match press conference at the Wankhede Stadium.

"I think you know this format. I think cricket can get very funny. Even the best in the world actually struggle to score runs in this format. So I think I had to respect the game. I had to come back to my basics, work a bit more from my basics. I think a lot of work did go really well. I think when hard times were coming, I think my close people, the people whom I love, whom I support, they were with me. I closed all my windows, I shut down my phone, I was not on social media, I am still not on social media, so less noise, less people interacting with me, so I think that really helped me to focus on the right direction and I am very happy how I am going."

Samson also said the period of introspection injected better clarity into his mind. "I think I've been playing this format for a very long time. I have played around 300 or 400 T20s. I have played from top 1 to 6. I have captained a franchise. I kind of have the experience of knowing what a team demands at the moment and what is the exact role of myself in this XI. So I think that clarity definitely helps you to score runs the way you want to."

Samson among 8 nominees for T20 WC POTT

In-form India opener Sanju Samson figured in the eight-man shortlist for the T20 World Cup Player of the Tournament announced by the ICC on Friday, reports PTI.

The other nominees are England all-rounder Will Jacks, Pakistan opener Sahibzada Farhan, South Africa's pacer Lungi Ngidi and captain Aiden Markram, New Zealand's all-rounder Rachin Ravindra and batter Tim Seifert, and American bowler Shadley van Schalkwyk.

Samson lit up the T20 World Cup with consecutive player-of-the-match performances.

Shine wins main event

KOLKATA RESULTS

Vijay Singh-trained Shine, ridden by Suraj Narredu, justifed the favoritsm to win the Echoes Of Light Handicap, the feature event of the Calcutta races on Friday.

1. Royal Mantle Handicap - 1600M: Simran's Attitude (Tarak Singha Roy) Varun 1; Lochs And Glens (Nikhil Naidu) 2; Carnation (Suraj Narredu) 3; Sensations (Vaibhav) 4; Wb: 1, 2, 2-1/2L. T: 1:41.62. TB: Vikash Jaiswal. Fav: Carnation.

2. Adiella Handicap - 1100M: Phenomenal Lady (Cheriyan Abraham) Vinod Shinde 1; Cashaban (Vishal Bunde) 2; Schwarzenegger (Farid Ansari) 3; Diamond Gold (MS Deora) 4; Wb: 1-1/2, Shd, 1-3/4L.T: 1:05.90. TB: Rutherford Alford . Fav: Moneycatcher.

3. Obligade Handicap - 1200M: Contessina (Ram H Shroff) N Darshan 1; Ananta Sukha (Farid Ansari) 2; Honey Cake (Abhishek Mhatre) 3; Dr Doom (Vaibhav) 4; 1, 1-1/4L, Nk. 1:05.99. TB: Rajesh Narredu. Fav: Contessina.

4. Averoff Cup - 1600M: Banduk Wali (Cheriyan Abraham) Vinod Shinde 1; Verrazzano (Vishal Bunde) 2; Oh My Darling (Varun) 3; Wonderful (JH Arul) 4; Wb: 2-1/4, Shd, 7L. T: 1:38.09. TB: Rutherford Alford. Fav: Star Power.

5. Echoes Of Light Handcap - 1200M: Shine (Subir Das Gupta) Suraj Narredu 1; Merlet (Imran Chisty) 2; Oishika (Abhishek Mhatre) 3; Light The World (R Bhati) 4; Wb: 2, Shd, 2-1/2L. T: 1-12.91. TB: Vijay Singh. Fav:Shine.

6. Obensky Handicap - 2000M: Dusenberg (KN Dhunjibhoy) Imran Chisty 1; Magnifico (Vaibhav) 2; Black Diamond (Vishal Bunde) 3; Multi Success (Suraj Narredu) 4; Wb: 3-1/2, 1-1/2, 1/2L. T: 2:07.01. TB: Shyam Habbu. Fav: Dusenberg.

Bengaluru dividends:

I race: Rs 89w; 33, 31p; Fc: Rs 2,301; Q: Rs 570; Shp: Rs 50; Thp: Rs 71; Tri: Rs 777 & 271; 3 Ex: Rs 6,131 & 7,883.

II race: Rs 87w; 29, 20, 19p; Fc: Rs 326; Q: Rs 134; Shp: Rs 38; Thp: Rs 59; Tri: Rs 682 & 319; Ex: Rs 5,438 & 1,165.

III race: Rs 18w; 12, 12, 16p; Fc: Rs 49; Q: Rs 31; Shp: Rs 37; Thp: Rs 46; Tri: Rs 109 & 39; Ex: Rs 250 & 150.

IV race: Rs 93w; 24, 49, 17p; Fc: Rs 5,207; Q: Rs 3,824; Shp: Rs 182; Thp: Rs; 44; Tri: Rs 6,690 & 3,823; Ex: Rs 44,302 (c/o).

V race: Rs 12w; 10, 13, 13p; Fc: Rs 28; Q: Rs 21; Shp: Rs 21; Thp: Rs 33; Tri: Rs 77 & 33; Ex: Rs 651 & 516.

VI race: Rs 21w; 10, 27, 16p; Fc: Rs 188; Q: Rs 153; Shp: Rs 62; Thp: Rs 37; Tri: Rs 1,086 & 193; Ex: Rs 627 & 185.

Jackpot: Rs 9,479 (41).
Runner-up: Rs 1,412 (118).
I treble: Rs 2,126 (24).
II treble: Rs 367 (185).

Your Unforgettable for feature

MUMBAI SELECTIONS

Your Unforgettable, from the stables of Pradeep Chouhan and to be ridden by Yash Narredu, is fancied to win the Radha Sigtia Trophy, the feature event of the Mumbai races to be run over a distance of five furlongs at the races on Saturday.

The first race starts at 5:00 pm.

1. Aziz H Ahmedbhoy Trophy - 2400M: Diego Garcia 1, Exuma 2.
2. Euphemia Plate - 1200M: Minari 1, Storm Majesty 2, Paloma 3.
3. Osman Chotani Plate - 1800M: Viking 1, Mighty Hero 2, Flash Mob 3.
4. Radha Sigtia Trophy - 1000M: Your Unforgettable 1, Foxy 2, Liban 3.
5. Indian Nave Trophy - 1400M: Undercover 1, Mulan 2, Manwar 3.
6. 1805 Trophy - 1000M: Regal Galleria 1, Celestina 2, Arbitrage 3.
Day's best: Diego Garcia. **Jackpot:** 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6. **Treble:** 3, 4 & 5.

CRICKET WOMEN'S ONE-OFF TEST

Pacers put Aus in command

Jemi's 50 lone spark as India crash to 198 all out on Day 1

PERTH, PTI

Jemimah Rodrigues fought bravely with a fifty but other India batters failed to counter the swing generated by Australian pacers Annabel Sutherland and debutant Lucy Hamilton, getting bundled out for a lowly 198 on the opening day of the one-off day-night Test here on Friday.

Rodrigues (52, 84b) looked fluent but did not have much backing from the rest of her colleagues.

The Indian pacers maintained a fine line outside the off-stump to nick off three Aussie top-order batters as the home side was placed at 96 for three at close.

Australia trail by 102 runs.

The Aussies elected to field, and the decision proved right by Sutherland (4/46) and Hamilton (3/31) who bowled at a fair clip and produced disconcerting movement.

Left-arm pacer Hamilton struck the first blow, removing Smriti Mandhana in the sixth over itself, with a peach that came into the left-hander.

Shafali Verma (35) looked good for more, but Sutherland managed to move the ball just the right amount to find her outside edge for stumper Beth Mooney to finish the formalities.

Debutant Pratika Rawal (18), skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (19) and Deepti Sharma (7) departed without making any significant contributions, as India slipped to 107 for five.

But a 43-run association between Rodrigues and Richa Ghosh (11, 41b) for the sixth wicket carried India to 150.

However, Rodrigues and Ghosh fell to Hamilton and Ash Gardner in the space of an over as India once again found themselves in trouble at 150 for seven.

A 38-run alliance between the two other Indian debutants -- Kashvee Gautam (34 not out) and Sayali Satghare (7, 35b) -- for the ninth wicket helped India move closer to 200.

However, pacer Satghare (8-1-24-2) had an even better moment soon when she castled Aussie opener Georgia Voll (2) with a prodigiously swung delivery.

It started moving in from the off-stump line and went past Voll's defence to rattle her leg-stump.

India managed to dismiss an edgy Phoebe Litchfield (9) and skipper Alyssa Healy (13), who is playing her final match for Australia, to reduce the Aussies to 58 for three.

But Ellyse Perry (43 batting) and Sutherland (20 batting) helped the hosts to navigate through the rest of the night without any damage.

Brief scores: India: 198 all out in 62.4 overs (Shafali Verma 35, Jemimah Rodrigues 52, Kashvee Gautam 34 n.o.; Darcie Brown 2-41, Lucy Hamilton 3-31, Annabel Sutherland 4-46) vs Australia: 96/3 in 27 overs (Ellyse Perry 43 n.o.; Sayali Satghare 2-24).

Jemimah Rodrigues scored a fighting 52 during the opening day of India's one-off day-night Test against Australia in Perth on Friday. X

CoE in Hesaraghatta, velodrome in Mysuru, announces CM

BENGALURU, DHNS: Without allocating a specific overall amount for the Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYES) - the governing body for sports in the state - Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced nine initiatives during the presentation of the latest Karnataka budget on Friday.

Among the infrastructural projects, a Centre of Excellence for kayaking and canoeing in Hesaraghatta lake in Bengaluru under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model and the construction of a cycling velodrome in Mysuru are the two prominent announcements.

Siddaramaiah also said a Sport Science Centre will be set-up in Kalaburagi under the PPP model to benefit sportspersons from the Kalyana Karnataka region. He also said that the district stadium in Vijayanagar will be upgraded using the grants from KKDRB and KMERC while a new Wrestling Arena (kusti akhada) will be constructed at Belagundi in Belagavi.

This apart, he allotted Rs 3 crore for the upgradation of sports infrastructure in Tumakuru and Rs 2 crore each to build taluka stadiums in Bangarapete, Muddebihala, Guledagudda, Kanakapura, Kukanur and Maski. Virajpete is set to get a well-equipped sports training hostel - the cost of which was not specified.

Lastly, the CM said national level marathons will be organised under the 'Sashaktha Karnataka' programme at a cost of Rs 10 lakh each in Belagavi, Gokarana, Chitradurga and Hampi. Additionally, district-level marathons will be organised in the name of famous sports personalities in 10 districts, at a cost of Rs 4 lakh each.

Home hero Piastri edges Antonelli to enjoy 'good day'

MELBOURNE, AFP: McLaren's Oscar Piastri **(in pic)** powered to the fastest time ahead of Mercedes' Kimi Antonelli in second practice for the season-opening Australian Grand Prix on Friday as drivers grappled with sweeping new engine changes.

The Australian sent 125,000 fans at his home track into a frenzy by blasting round Albert Park in one minute 19.729secs, 0.214 clear of Antonelli.

Antonelli's team-mate, George Russell, came third, a fraction clear of Ferrari's seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton.

"A lot of learnings but overall a reasonably good day," said Piastri, who won seven times last year but could only finish the championship in third.

"FP2 ran smoothly and we were able to find a bit more consistency and the car behaved more as we expected, which was good."

After a dismal debut season with Ferrari last year, an upbeat Hamilton was encouraged by what had been achieved so far by the Scuderia.

Lakshya storms into semis

BENGALURU, DHNS

In another dominating performance, India's Lakshya Sen defeated China's Li Shi Feng to storm into the semifinal of the All England Championships in Birmingham on Friday.

In a contest that lasted 60 minutes, world No. 12 Indian posted a 21-13, 21-16 win over world No. 6 Shi Feng in their quarterfinal clash.

Lakshya will be up against either Koki Watanabe of Japan or Victor Lai of Canada in the last-four encounter.

This will be Lakshya's third semifinal appearance, having reached the final in 2022 and semifinal in 2024, at the prestigious tournament.

Prakash Padukone and Pullela Gopichand are the only Indians to have lifted the title here.

Lakshya Sen. FILE PHOTO

Nikitha stars in Rajmahal BC win

BENGALURU, DHNS: Nikitha's dominated play by scoring 35 points that turned out to be the cynosure in Rajmahal BC's comfortable 87-42 victory over Banglore Sporting BC at the Mathru Cup State-level Basketball Championship for women for SMN Memorial Trophy at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on Friday.

DYES Mysore, Mounts BC and Beagles notched up wins to enter the quarterfinals.

Results (league matches): Rajmahal BC: 87 (Nikitha 35, Aadya Aithal 21) bt Banglore Sporting BC: 42 (Thanushka 10, Amulya 9). HT: 41-23; South Western Railways: 80 (Sruthi Arvind 26, Bhandhavya 25) bt Bangalore Vanguards: 37 (Aditi 19). HT: 39-12; DYES Mysore: 53 (Sanika 12) bt MCHS BC: 22 (Nishevitha 05). HT: 28-10; Mounts BC: 59 (Nakshatra 14, Venisha 9) bt Koramangala BC: 20 (Nitya 7, Hishita 5). HT: 27-12; DYES Vidyanagar: 43 (Ishitha 29) bt YMMA BC: 23 (Sakshi 6, Anjalee 6). HT: 32-06; Beagles BC: 51 (Chythanya 10) bt Kolar Dist BA: 35 (Ranjitha 12, Ganavi 7). HT: 26-21; HBR BC: 52 (Mahika 15, Aditi Nair 10) bt Rovers BC Dharwad: 43 (Deepika 26, Shridevi 12). HT: 22-24.

TENNIS ITF W35 KALABURAGI

Vaishnavi, Ankita through

Indian duo overcomes Sonal and Bela to also make doubles final

BENGALURU, DHNS

Third seed Vaishnavi Adkar and eighth seed Ankita Raina continued their impressive runs at the ITF W35 Kalaburagi, advancing to the semifinals after commanding performances on Friday.

Vaishnavi produced a clinical display to defeat Elina Nepliy 6-1, 6-3 and Ankita followed with an equally dominant showing, overcoming Evgeniya Burdina 6-0, 6-2 to secure her place in the final four.

The Indian duo later teamed up in the doubles semifinals, edging past Sonal Patil and Bela Tamhankar to reach the final. Meanwhile, Akanksha Dileep Nitture and Karnataka's Soha Sadiq formed the second doubles final pairing.

Vaishnavi set the tone early in her quarterfinal encounter, finding the lines with both her forehand and backhand to break Nepliy in the second game and surge to a 3-0 lead.

Vaishnavi Adkar returns during her singles quarterfinals victory over Elina Nepliy at the ITF W35 Kalaburagi on Friday. DH PHOTO/ TAJUDDIN AZAD

Despite Nepliy attempting to disrupt the rhythm with well-timed drop shots and forcing a prolonged deuce battle, Vaishnavi remained composed and continued to pressure her opponent into errors, extending her advantage to 4-0. Nepliy managed to hold serve once late in the set, but Vaishnavi quickly wrapped it up 6-1 with another solid service game.

The second set followed a similar pattern as Vaishnavi broke Nepliy in the opening game before backing it up with a tough hold. While Nepliy briefly fought back to reduce the deficit and capitalised on a few service errors from Vaishnavi to break and make it 4-2, the Indian immediately responded with a flurry of backhand winners to break again for 5-2.

Nepliy managed another break after a long deuce game, but Vaishnavi raised her level in the following game with clean returns to seal the 6-3 victory.

In the following quarterfinal, Ankita started strongly against Evgeniya Burdina, breaking in the opening game after forcing errors from the Russian before comfortably consolidating with her serve.

Burdina struggled to find consistency as double faults and unforced errors allowed Ankita to race to a 3-0 lead.

The pressure continued to mount as Raina dominated the rallies, pushing the score to 5-0 before Burdina took a medical timeout. Upon returning, Burdina was unable to halt Ankita momentum as the Indian closed the set 6-0.

Results: Singles (prefix denotes seeding): Quarterfinals: 3-Vaishnavi Adkar (Ind) bt Elina Nepliy 6-1, 6-3; 8-Ankita Raina (Ind) bt Evgeniya Burdina 6-0, 6-2; 6-Thasaporn Naklo (Tha) bt 2-Anchisa Chanta (Tha) 6-4, 6-1; 1- Jasmijn Gimbrere (Ned) bt Maayan Laron (Isr) 6-2, 6-2.
Doubles: Semifinals: 2-Vaishnavi Adkar (Ind) /Ankita Raina (Ind) bt Sonal Patil (Ind) /Bela Tamhankar (Ind) 7-6(5), 6-2; Akanksha Dileep Nitture (Ind) /Soha Sadiq (Ind) bt Sravya Shivani Chilakalapudi (IND) /Michika Ozeki (Jpn) 6-7(7), 6-0, (10-5).

Dravid & Ashwin set to acquire ETPL franchise

LONDON, PTI: Legendary players Rahul Dravid and Ravichandran Ashwin are part of an Indian consortium set to acquire a franchise in the European T20 Premier League (ETPL), according to a report here.

The consortium has agreed a deal to buy the Glasgow-based franchise in the six-team tournament taking place this summer, according to a report in the 'BBC Sport'.

The ETPL is poised to sell the second Dutch franchise to a group of South Africa investors fronted by ex-Proteas players Faf du Plessis, and Heinrich Klaasen, the report said. It is likely that the two franchises will be announced at an event later this month.

Sharath, batters star in SBI win

BENGALURU, DHNS

Prakhar Chaturvedi, Shivaraj S and Sidharth Akhil smashed blistering fifties while Sharath HS picked up a five-for as State Bank Of India eased to a comfortable 54-run victory over DTDC Sports Club in the KSCA Group II - I Division league cum knockout tournament.

LOCAL CRICKET

Batting first, SBI posted a mammoth 260 for six in 20 overs, thanks to Prakhar (71 off 35 balls), Shivaraj (70 off 22 balls) and Sidharth (62 off 33 balls). Abul Hasan Khalid (3/50) was the pick of the bowlers for DTDC Sports Club. Chasing 261 for the win, DTDC managed to muster 206/9 in 20 overs with Avinash D top-scoring with 51.For SBI, Sharath returned with figures of 5/34.

Brief scores: State Bank Of India: 260/6 in 20 overs (Lochan S Gowda S 30, Prakhar Chaturvedi 71, Sidharth Akhil 62, Shivaraj S 70 n.o.; Pranav Bhatia 2-38, Abul Hasan Khalid 3-50) bt DTDC Sports Club: 206/9 in 20 overs (Vijaya Raj B 31, Pranav Bhatia 44 n.o., Avinash D 51; Sharath HS 5-34).
NR Sports Group: 152/7 in 20 overs (Tushar Singh 51, Venkatesh M 26; Darshan MB 2-26, Suresh Karani 2-32, Shivraj H 2-20) lt to Central Excise & Customs: 156/4 in 19.2 overs (Aashish Mahesh 37, Niranjan 37, Thippa Reddy 31; Lankesh KS 2-23).
Railway Institute South, Hubli: 162 all out in 20 overs (Suraj Ahuja 28, Rahul Singh Rawat 36; Monish Reddy 2-24, Gajjala Dileep Kumar 2-32, Gagandeep K 2-32, Rahul Prasanna 2-44) bt HAL Sports Club: 144/9 in 20 overs (Sumukha Prasad S 28, Nathan D'Mello 39; Satish B 29 n.o.; Sanjay Kumar Sihag 4-24, Madan, Mohan Krishna 2-13, Sunil S Kumar 2-33).

ISL clubs charge AIFF of profiting from 'distressed season'

NEW DELHI, PTI: Twelve Indian Super League (ISL) clubs on Friday wrote to the All India Football Federation (AIFF), alleging that the federation stands to earn a surplus of over Rs 3.4-crore from the ongoing season despite assuring the Sports Ministry that it would not "make a rupee" from the league this year.

In a strongly-worded five-pages letter sent to the AIFF deputy secretary general, the clubs wrote the federation is retaining 40 per cent of central revenue even as participating teams are bearing the "entire" operational exposure and the bulk of the league's economic risk.

"The annexed Financial Model records: AIFF Contributions: 0; AIFF Share on Ops: 0; Entire operational funding borne by clubs," the letter stated while referring to the revised financial model circulated for the 2025-26 season.

In the letter signed by 12 of the 14 ISL participaing clubs, it is stated that the league is projected to generate Rs 8.62 crore from streaming partner FanCode, of which AIFF would retain 40 per cent, amounting to "approximately Rs 3.448 crore".

"Despite this extraordinary context, the federation stands to earn a surplus in excess of Rs 3.4 crores -- even after publicly stating before the Hon'ble Sports Minister that it would not 'make a rupee' out of the league this year," the letter said.

"It is unacceptable that, in a force majeure–like interim season not attributable to any fault of the Clubs, the Federation extracts profit while Clubs absorb unprecedented financial strain," it added.

Blues in search of spark

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru FC's title ambitions took an early hit in the Indian Super League season as the 2019 champions lost out on four points. Placed 7th on the points table, they now head to Kolkata to take on a struggling Mohammedan SC on Saturday.

Ideally, five points in first three matches isn't a poor start to a season. However, given the short nature of this ISL edition (13 matches per side) and when you see the defending champions Mohun Bagan already pulling away with four consecutive wins, it's hard not to feel concerned.

The worries further pile on as BFC have struggled to dominate against teams placed below them despite having the luxury of playing at their own den. The 0-2 defeat against Punjab FC, especially how the hosts were outplayed in all facets of the game, made all of BFC's troubles too apparent.

Renedy Singh

LIVE 5 PM, SONY SPORTS NETWORK

Saturday's match presents an ideal opportunity for BFC to not just gain some winning momentum against an all-domestic line-up but also sort out their glaring issues in many departments, primarily offence.

While the creative outlets largely have been able to put the ball in open spaces in the offensive third, an unconvincing show by their first-choice striker Sivasakthi N in the last two games followed by an ageing Sunil Chhetri's open-net miss off the bench have left a lot to be desired.

"It could have been a different game if we didn't miss our chances in the last game," said coach Renedy before leaving with his team for Kolkata on Wednesday.

"But I will like to take the positives from the last defeat. We did play a much better second half and were able to open up chances. We need more of that going forward."

In a further boost for the coach and his team, their leading centre-back Rahul Bheke has rejoined training after missing last two games due to knee injury and should bring back the experience to the backline that appeared shaky in his absence.

Aravindh Chithambaram

Aravindh wins; Gukesh draws again

PRAGUE
(CZECH REPUBLIC), PTI

Indian Grandmaster Aravindh Chithambaram defeated Netherland's Jorden van Foreest but world champion D Gukesh's winless run continued as he played out a draw yet again, this time against Vincent Keymer of Germany in the eighth and penultimate round of the Prague International chess festival here. Uzbekistan's Nodirbek Abdusattorov leapfrogged to the pole position following a victory over local favourite David Navara.

With 5.5 points in his kitty, Abdusattorov enjoys a half point lead over van Foreest with just one round remaining. After winning the Tata Steel Masters earlier in February, this could well be the second super-event win for the young Uzbek.

Results after round 8: Masters: Nodirbek Yakubboev (Uzb, 3.5) drew with Parham Maghsoodloo (Iri, 4); D Gukesh (Ind, 2.5) drew with Vincent Keymer (Ger, 4); Jorden van Foreest (Ned, 5) lt to Aravindh Chithambaram (Ind, 4); David Navara (Cze, 4.5) lt to Nodirbek Abdusattorov (UZB, 5.5); Hans Moke Niemann (USA, 3.5) bt David Anton Guijarro (ESP, 3.5).
Challengers: Zhu Jiner (Chn, 2.5) drew with Thomas Beerdsen (Ned, 4); Daniil Yuffa (Esp 5) bt Jonas Bjerre Buhl (Den, 3.5); Finek Vanclav (Cze, 5.5) drew with Surya Shekhar Ganguly (Ind, 3); Benjamin Gledura (Hun, 4.5) bt Hrbek Stepan (Cze, 3.5); Divya Deshmukh (Ind, 4) drew with Nemec Jachym (Cze, 4.5).

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DH DECCAN HERALD
Wknd.

Ayurvedamritham is all set to launch Maturamritham programme tomorrow

Ayurvedamritham Health Centre is organising a special initiative, 'Sthree Swasthya Amritotsava – a celebration of women's health and wholeness', to mark International Women's Day 2026 at its Judicial Layout centre in Bengaluru.

A landmark initiative, 'Maturamritham - The nectar of motherhood', a comprehensive ayurvedic wellness programme designed exclusively for women at every stage of life is being launched to mark International Women's Day. This programme will be spearheaded by Dr T K Girija Kumari, the centre's medical director. She is a veteran clinician with over three decades of experience in ayurvedic medicine, including specialised expertise in women's health, obstetrics and gynaecology.

Maturamritham: Three pillars of women's wellness
The Maturamritham programme is structured around three distinct pillars, each addressing critical phases of a woman's health journey.
Shakti: For mothers seeking restoration and rejuvenation, this programme, rooted in traditional Kerala Prasava **Raksha protocols,** offers personalised post-natal care including an ayurvedic dietary regimen, therapeutic oil massages and herbal preparations designed to restore strength, support lactation and accelerate recovery after childbirth.
Saukhyam: For women between 20 and 45 years navigating the demands of modern life it addresses hormonal imbalances, menstrual health, fertility support, stress management and preventive care through customised panchakarma therapies, lifestyle modifications and ayurvedic interventions.
Sampurna: For women over 45 years, it focuses on menopausal wellness, bone health, metabolic balance and rejuvenation with therapies that support vitality, mental clarity and graceful ageing.

Future-forward ayurveda collective
Ayurvedamritham is a vision of the well-known Prof Dr G G Gangadharan who practices classical ayurveda. This wellness centre offers holistic treatments that span preventive care, condition-specific healing, integrative therapies, research and education - all grounded in classical Ayurveda knowledge and adapted for the realities of modern life. From lifestyle diseases to post-cancer rejuvenation, from gut health to emotional balance, Ayurvedamritham approaches wellness not as a trend, but as a way of life.

At its heart, this is Dr Gangadharan's offering to the world - a deeply-rooted, future-forward ayurveda collective built not just with science and structure, but with soul.

What sets Ayurvedamritham apart
Holistic healthcare: Combines age-old Ayurvedic wisdom with modern diagnostics for customised treatments addressing root causes.
Contemporary integrated wellness ecosystem: A seamless blend of clinical services, natural remedies, wellness programmes and lifestyle products crafted for complete well-being.
Scientific excellence with tradition: Guided by rigorous research, Ayurvedamritham upholds the purity of ayurvedic practices while incorporating contemporary medical advancements.
Global reach with local roots: While deeply rooted in Indian heritage, Ayurvedamritham aims at making ayurveda accessible and relevant worldwide through education, wellness tourism and global outreach programmes.
Sustainability and natural care: Committed to eco-friendly practices, from sourcing natural herbs responsibly to promoting sustainable health practices.

Dr T K Girija Kumari

Ayurvedamritham™
HEALTH CENTRE

For enquiries and consultation appointment:
Ayurvedamritham Health Centre
1155, 14th Main, 14th Cross
Judicial Layout, GKVK Post
Yelahanka
Bengaluru 560 065
Phone: +91 99009 90184
www. ayurvedamritham.com

WALK TO GOOD HEALTH

Shilpi Madan has some tips to help you make the most of your daily walks

If you feel happy and energetic every day, and can complete daily tasks without feeling exhausted, you are good. Bring in a spot of dedicated brisk walking to your daily movement and watch your health index move up.

Here are cues to step it up right:

Time it
Your body starts burning fat after 20 minutes of slipping into a brisk walk. A small stroll for 20 minutes works in zero impact. Time a brisk walk for a minimum of 45 minutes. An hour long walk daily is recommended for visible impact in a month.

Engage core
Chatting with friends and sauntering does not amount to exercise. When you walk, correct your posture. The back must be straight, shoulders moved back and stomach in. Retain the same average speed during the walk.

Rev it up
Set a daily target of 15,000 steps to clock in the optimum movement. It is a good prompt as even if you net in an average of 10,000 steps a day, the basal metabolic rate revs up and keeps working even when you are sleeping.

Wear weights
Strap up weights around your ankles and wrists and move your limbs during the walk to burn more calories. This amps up the results radically in terms of inch loss.

Go on an incline
If you are on the treadmill, walk on an incline for maximising impact. For outdoors, choose a slope where you can walk up.

Ensure your posture is correct and you do not lean forward while walking up.

Intimate wellness is as crucial as any other aspect of health

Modern treatments at **Gunasheela Fertility Centre** focus on non-surgical, evidence-based interventions that are discreet and convenient. **Dr Devika Gunasheela**, Managing Director and **Dr Ashwini N**, Senior Consultant explain how women with intimate issues can overcome them and embrace their freedom, confidence and overall well-being

Women today are breaking barriers in every sphere of life. They are financially independent, socially confident and making their own life choices. Yet, when it comes to intimate wellness, many still remain silent.

Issues such as discomfort during intimacy, urinary leakage or changes after childbirth and menopause are rarely discussed openly. Women often hesitate to talk about these problems even with their doctors. But intimate wellness is an important part of overall health and well-being.

When daily life becomes uncomfortable
For many women, the problem begins quietly. A small urinary leak while coughing, laughing or sneezing may seem like a minor inconvenience at first. Over time, however, it can start affecting daily life.
Some women become hesitant to travel or attend social gatherings, constantly worrying about finding a restroom or dealing with embarrassment. Many quietly use liners or restrict their movements, believing this is simply something they must 'adjust' to.
Childbirth can also bring changes such as weakened pelvic muscles or reduced muscle support in the vaginal area. These changes can affect both comfort and confidence. Yet, many women remain focused on caring for their newborns and overlook their own recovery.

Modern solutions without surgery
At Gunasheela Fertility Centre, several modern treatments are designed to address these concerns without the need for major procedures.

Many treatments today are non-surgical and can be done quickly. Technologies such as laser therapy, platelet-rich plasma (PRP) treatment and specialised pelvic floor strengthening methods help improve muscle strength, reduce urinary leakage and restore vaginal comfort.

Most procedures, also called 'coffee break' procedures, are done on an outpatient basis and take less than an hour, allowing women to return to their daily routine almost immediately.

Comfort, confidence and equality in intimacy
Postmenopausal women also experience concerns such as dryness, irritation and discomfort due to hormonal changes. These issues can affect both relationships and self-confidence. Intimate health is not just about reproduction. A woman's comfort and pleasure are equally important in a healthy relationship.

Women's Day reminder
This International Women's Day, the message from Gunasheela Fertility Centre is clear - intimate wellness deserves attention, care and conversation. By seeking timely help, women can regain comfort, confidence and freedom in their everyday lives, because intimate wellness is truly as important as any other aspect of health.

Gunasheela
WOMEN'S INTIMATE WELLNESS CENTRE
Aesthetic, Function & Restorative Care for Women

Sheroes in action

Healthy women lead to a prosperous society. Investing in women's health amounts to nation-building. **Aster CMI Hospital, Hebbal,** has the talent and packages needed to ensure your good health and fitness, crucial to realising your potential and dreams

Women's health has always been a concern and priority. A hectic lifestyle, poor work-life balance and burdened with the responsibility of both home and profession, women have always neglected their own health and needs. While women have different health needs through life - from childhood to advanced years – overwhelming responsibility and no time for oneself have led to a gross neglect of health. Unfortunately, many serious health concerns and even deaths occur only due to neglect in the early stages.

International Women's Day is an occasion to pause and put in place systems and routines to attend to this critical need. Preventive care is a need of the hour. A calendar that includes a day for screenings and routine checks based on age and comorbidities is a lifesaver. It can save long and expensive treatment later on.

Aster CMI Hospital, Hebbal, has a dedicated team of women specialists with the expertise, empathy and experience to attend to the healthcare needs of women. These 'sheroes' have saved many lives and empowered women with health and fitness to achieve their potential, turning dreams into reality. At Aster CMI Hospital, Hebbal, women have access to state-of-the-art healthcare, that's convenient and accessible.

Promise to take care of your health

On International Women's Day, every woman must promise herself to take care of her health. Every 10 years, there are preventive screenings and precautionary measures to be taken. For instance, after 40 years, women need to get mammogram and pap smear done regularly. After menopause, they need a calcium supplement, and so on. In a nutshell, get preventive screenings done and take precautions.

Dr Gayathri Karthik Nagesh
Program Director
Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Set aside quality me-time

Women of all ages should take care of their health, set aside quality me-time and have a good work-life balance. To maintain a healthy lifestyle, you should choose a physical activity of your choice such as swimming, yoga or aerobics, and do it whenever you can either at home or outdoors. After a certain age, women should focus on strengthening their muscles so that there is no problem in movement during advanced years.

Dr Sumalatha K B
Senior Consultant
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Dedicate time daily for your health

Women should take ownership of their health. Without health, you can do nothing. They should make themselves a priority. Women multi-task so much that they tend to push their own well-being aside. Dedicate 15 to 20 minutes for your own well-being every day. Don't procrastinate when in doubt about something happening in your body. I always say, taking time off today for your health will give you a healthier tomorrow.

Dr Poovamma C U
Lead and Head of Department
Breast Oncology and Oncoplasty

Mother is a constant source of courage and hope

On this International Women's Day, I would like to acknowledge the extraordinary strength of mothers who stand beside their children during some of the most difficult health challenges. As a paediatric surgeon, I regularly see infants and young girls battling congenital anomalies, abdominal emergencies, tumours and complex surgical conditions. And in almost every case, it is the mother who is the constant source of courage, vigilance and hope. Women are the first observers of a child's health.
This International Women's Day, my message to society is clear - empower mothers with knowledge, support them emotionally and ensure access to quality paediatric care. When we educate a mother, we protect a generation. When we prioritise the health of a girl child, we build a healthier and stronger nation.
Let us celebrate women not only for their resilience, but also for their vital role as guardians of the next generation's health and future.

Dr Manjiri Somashekhar
Lead and Senior Consultant
Paediatric Surgery

Love thyself

Women are nurturing, loving and caring naturally. So, love thyself, eat a proper diet and take care of your health for beauty is on the inside. Love yourself first. You can't pour out of an empty cup.

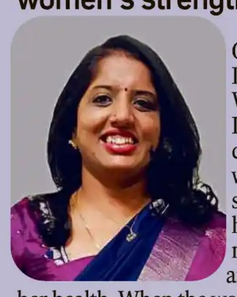
Dr Mythri Shankar
Lead Consultant
Nuclear Medicine

May you continue to nourish your body

Communities, countries and ultimately the world is only as strong as the health of their women. May you continue to nourish your body, mind and spirit. Happy International Women's Day!

Dr Anuradha H K
Lead Consultant
Neurology

Let's celebrate our women's strength



On International Women's Day, let's celebrate our women's strength, honour her resilience and prioritise her health. When the women in our family, community and country thrive, humanity thrives. Happy International Women's Day.

Dr Nirmala S
Senior Consultant
Neurosurgery

Your health matters

As a woman and an oncologist, I want to remind you on International Women's Day that your health matters. Early detection is crucial as early-stage cancers have a high chance of cure with less complications and shorter treatments.
Paying attention to changes in your body, screening - especially for cervical and breast cancer – and HPV vaccine for young girls and women go a long way in detecting and prevention of cancer. Having a good exercise regimen, healthy food practices without processed food and a positive outlook can do wonders to a woman's health and in preventing cancer.
So, this International Women's Day, be aware of your body, notice subtle changes and take care.

Dr Vaishnavi Joshi
Consultant
Medical Oncology and Haemato Oncology

IBD can be treated and managed

Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) affects the younger generation and can be very debilitating. It affects the quality of life. It has an adverse impact on education and professional life. There has been a steep climb in the incidence of this disease in India over the last decade. If IBD is untreated, she will not be able to lead a normal life. It will even affect her marriage and child-bearing. We have excellent treatment options available, both as tablets and periodic injections, that help control this disease and allows her to lead a normal life, including pursuing her area of interest, marriage and pregnancy.
So, if your daughter has been diagnosed with IBD, do not worry. She can lead a perfectly normal life with treatment. There is an IBD Centre at Aster CMI Hebbal since the last 10 years.

Dr Anupama N K
Senior Consultant
Medical Gastroenterology

Reach out to a woman in need of help

I believe every day is a Women's Day. A woman works twice as much as a man and probably gets half the reward. As a paediatrician, I have seen how women are expected to take the responsibility of children and their home, even if they are working professionals. If a child gets sick at home, almost always, the mother has to take the responsibility of bringing the child to the doctor. She has to take off from work, leaving whatever she is doing at the office. Women have the ability to multi-task and this makes them more competent at work or home.
Fathers should step up with taking care of children. Also, a woman should reach out to another woman in need of help.

Dr Parimala V Thirumalesh
Lead Senior Consultant
Neonatology and Paediatrics

We must champion women's health

As an anaesthetist, I make surgery possible without pain. I ensure patients are comfortable by reducing the pain of surgery. I monitor them closely throughout the procedure and keep them safe through their most vulnerable moments. Just as we safeguard them with precision, we must champion women's health and empowerment too with the same compassion and commitment. This International Women's Day, let us celebrate the strength in our scrubs and the unwavering support that empowers us to thrive under the lights and beyond.

Dr Renita Marina Pinto
Consultant
Anaesthesia and Critical Care

Thyroid health is especially important for women

On this International Women's Day, let us encourage every woman to prioritise her well-being, listen to her body and seek timely medical advice. A healthy woman builds a healthy family and a stronger society. Thyroid health is especially important for women, as conditions such as hypothyroidism and hyperthyroidism are more common in women than in men. Thyroid function is important at critical ages of adolescence and during pregnancy.
Taking care of your thyroid means paying attention to symptoms such as fatigue, weight changes, mood swings and irregular periods.
Regular check-ups, a balanced nutrition with adequate iodine, selenium and iron, and stress management can make a big difference. Stay healthy.

Dr Brunda M S
Senior Consultant
Internal Medicine

Aster CMI HOSPITAL
We'll Treat You Well
#GiveGainTo INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2026

Aster CMI Hospital, Hebbal
No 43/2, New Airport Road - NH 44
Sahakar Nagar, Hebbal
Bengaluru 560 092
Emergency: 080 46474647
Helpline: 080 43420100
Email:
customercare.aster@asterhospital.in
serviceexcellence.blr@asterhospital.in
Website: www.asterhospitals.in

DH DECCAN HERALD
Wknd.

WOMEN'S DAY

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY MARCH 8 EMPOWER | INSPIRE | UNITE

10 glasses of water daily keeps your metabolism high and skin glowing

DRINK UP

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

FITNESS FUNDAS

- Balanced diet daily
- Regular health screening
- Never self-medicate
- Avoid smoking, tobacco products
- Manage health conditions actively
- Dedicate time for financial planning

MINDFULNESS FOR WELL-BEING

- Make time for exercise daily
- Pick up a hobby
- Strike a work-life balance
- Meditation to check stress
- Keep in touch with friends
- Set aside some me-time

FOR WOMEN, BY WOMEN

Many women are choosing careers that once didn't exist and carving out a niche for themselves, says Swatee Jog

All talk of breaking the glass ceiling until a few years ago has now evolved to what happens after it is broken - read creating all new rooms. As women take flight into new career options, many have decided to focus on a niche 'for women, by women' careers. Across Indian cities, women are stepping into careers that didn't exist a decade ago - roles that combine creativity, autonomy, emotional intelligence and entrepreneurship. It allows them to work while managing children and homes, earn well and also achieve work-life balance.

What connects these careers is not novelty but intention.

These women identified gaps they themselves experienced, invested in skill-building and certification, began small - often alongside full-time job or homemaking and wisely used digital platforms to build visibility. They created services rooted in empathy and lived experience. In doing so, they are not merely choosing alternate careers - they are expanding the definition of professional success.

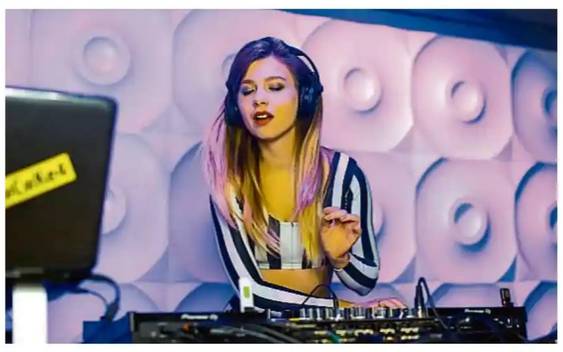
This Women's Day, empowerment is about designing work that aligns with who women are becoming.

Ruling the CONSOLE

A woman in control at a DJ console is no longer a surprise. DJ Shruthi is a prominent and sought-after DJ headlining weddings, corporate events and curated city nights for women. She travels across Bengaluru, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Delhi for gigs, sometimes all in one week.

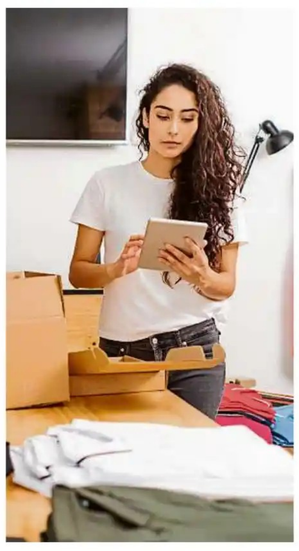
Shruti was a music aficionado from school days. She invested in formal DJ courses that teach sound mixing, beat matching and equipment handling from other DJs and attending informal workshops. "Training under established DJs, practicing with home studio set-ups and building small gigs through private parties before moving to larger events helped me establish and make a name for myself", says Shruthi. She engages with her fans and also announces her events through her Instagram page, and through popular ticketing and events platforms.

What makes this career particularly appealing for young women like Shruthi is its flexibility. Wedding seasons can be lucrative, while curated niche gigs - such as all-women sangeet nights or wellness retreat music sessions — allow creative expression.



Home free HOME

Janhavi Shroff, mother of two, was bored of her homemaker life after the children settled in school. She decided to put her own experience of decluttering to good use. As a decluttering consultant, Janhavi is much in demand among working women overwhelmed by careers, a messy home and caregiving.



"I knew how it feels to see a messy home. I would often help my friends and neighbours with decluttering. I also sought training through online certification programmes in space planning and home organisation. My education in basic psychology and habit formation helped me understand why clutter accumulates", says Janhavi.

Today, her social media is full of before-after pictures and her calm process of clearing clutter appeals to many and gives her work that she says is truly satisfying and rewarding. But beyond tidy wardrobes and cupboards, she often helps women let go of emotional clutter too - unused wedding trousseaus, inherited objects or aspirational purchases. A clutter-free home is certainly a sweet home.

Money, MONEY, money...

As more women earn well independently, the demand for financial literacy tailored to women's life journeys is growing. It is this niche space where Damayanti Mehta works. A CA by profession, Damayanti has focused only on women as clients. "In my initial years as a CA, I would come across wives of our clients totally clueless and fully dependent on husbands for financial planning and investments. Many well-earning women had wealth-guilt to manage their own money. That's when I decided to focus on women and it has been a win-win for us", she says.

Damayanti hosts special workshops on finance planning and investing. She also works with families in succession planning, especially when female heirs are involved.

Take a DEEP BREATH

With conversations around burn-out, stress and trauma becoming mainstream, breathwork and nervous system regulation are moving from fringe wellness to structured practice.

Mahima Rajadhyaksha had prior experience in yoga as a coach. This yoga trainer also conducts corporate leadership retreats. "During these sessions, I would see women hold themselves back from fully opening up. I realised that they had a lot of stress and trauma that didn't let them express themselves fully. It hindered their careers too. So, I started women-only sessions and I have seen amazing results", says Mahima.

She went through an intensive certification programme in trauma-informed breathwork, somatic therapy and nervous system science but says "it comes more from connecting and understanding women better".

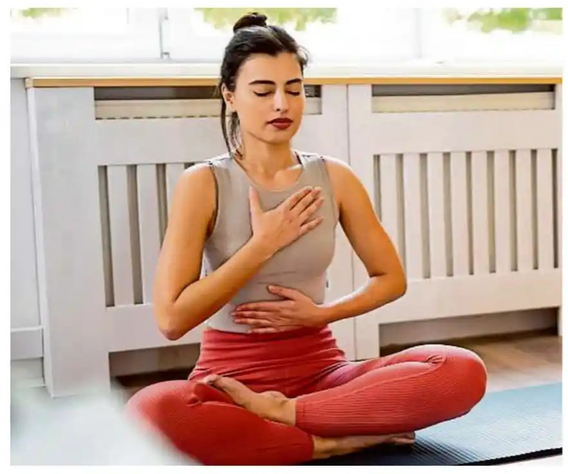
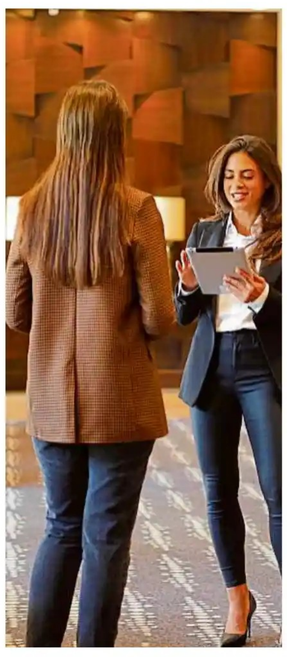


IMAGE building with confidence

Marlene Thakore was popular even in her school and college days for putting together attire, accessories and the entire look for her mother, Bridgette, who owned a boutique.

"Image consulting today goes far beyond wardrobe and accessories selection. It includes body language, assertive presence, digital identity and personal branding", she says as she explains her work, adding that women in high and visible roles often reach out to her for the identity they try to create. Marlene does not have any certifications but learnt on the job. She also accompanies several women CEOs and business owners to conferences and on business trips to help them stay on top of the game.

Her work often intersects with confidence-building - helping women negotiate promotions, prepare for board meetings or step into public visibility with ease.



LEISURE

Beetle Bailey

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN BEETLE'S EYES?
NO ONE HAS
I KNOW SOMEONE WHO MUST HAVE SEEN THEM
WHAT DO YOU GUYS WANT?
DR. I. BALLS
GREG+ MORT WALKER
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1/12

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

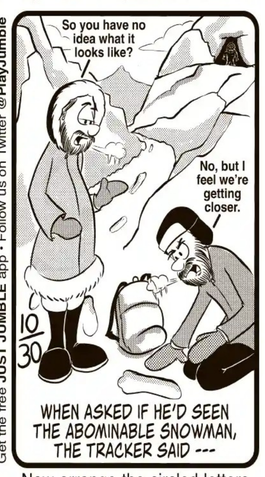
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

OHYOA

TMOOT

PZRPIE

NTEYGL


So you have no idea what it looks like?
No, but I feel we're getting closer.
10/30
WHEN ASKED IF HE'D SEEN THE ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN, THE TRACKER SAID ---

Get the free JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @Play Jumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print your answer here: ( ) " ( ) "

Answers: When asked if he'd seen the Abominable Snowman, the tracker said — NOT "YETI"

YAHOO MOTTO ZIPPER GENTLY

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HITORI-136

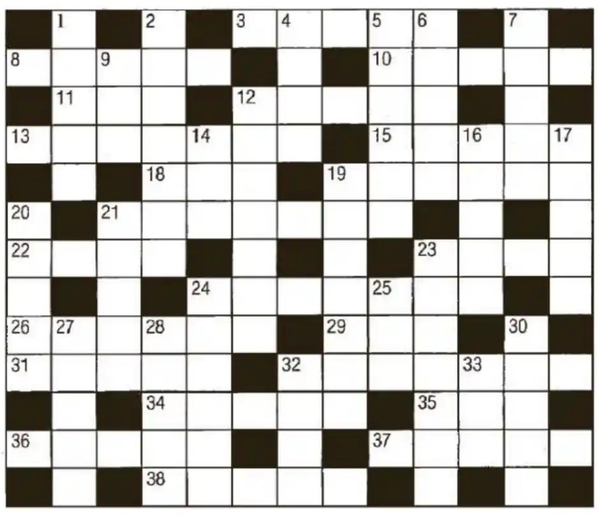
8	3	2	6	2	2	3	5
5	2	1	7	3	4	8	6
5	5	6	1	4	2	7	5
6	7	2	3	6	1	4	2
4	6	3	2	7	8	2	2
2	8	1	4	2	7	2	3
4	8	8	2	6	3	5	1
4	1	5	2	2	2	3	6

SOLUTION for HITORI-136

■	3	■	2	■	5	1	■
1	■	5	3	6	2	■	4
3	■	7	■	4	■	8	2
■	2	8	7	■	6	3	■
6	■	4	1	■	3	■	7
■	7	■	4	1	■	5	6
6	4	8	3	7	1	2	5
5	■	2	■	6	■	3	8

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 137



EASY

ACROSS
3 Halts (5)
8 A premium (5)
10 Land measures (5)
11 Bind (3)
12 Musical instrument (5)
13 Strengthen (7)
15 Stadium (5)
18 Transgression (3)
19 Feline mammal (6)
21 Reprimand (7
22 Experts (4)
23 Musical term (4)
24 Coloured arc (7)
26 Small stones (6)
29 Paddle (3)
31 Cold dish (5)
32. Student (7)
34 Begin working (3,2)
35 Doze (3)
36 Concur (5)
37 To father (5)
38 Smug smile (5)

DOWN
1 Helicopter blade (5)
2 Estimates (7)
4 Row (4)
5 Monarch's residence (6)
6 Group of twenty (5)
7 Party (5)
9 Nothing (3)
12 Middle (7)
14 Twitch (3)
16 Arm joint (5)
17 Book of maps (5)
19 South American river (7)
20 Teeth (5)
21 Lawful (5)
23 Small crown (7)
24 Regain (6)
25 Expression of contempt (3)
27 Scope (5)
28 Urns (5)
30 Jacket part (5)
32 Move (4)
33Insulate (3)

CRYPTIC

ACROSS
3 Imagine a little drink out East (5)
8 Though beneficial, a burden to a bighead (5)
10 It's a different thing when it falls (5)
11 Prisoner of the Gulag (3)
12 Crowned heads at college (5)
13 Got mixed up with Ted Lang (7)
15 A little tiny piece, you'll admit (3,2)
18 No ecclesiastical letter from lady (3)
19 Being calm, sneer wryly as the race finishes (6)
21 Dishes up anew an out-of-the-way repast (7)
22 Rush at a mad rate (4)
23 The cheapest part is better avoided (4)
24 As worn for act four, perhaps? (3,4)
26 Beer or punch (6)
29 People who never have a weekend out! (3)
31 Seen staggering round the bend so as to follow (5)
32 In circulation in a big way (2,5)
34 I'm past being a perfect creature! (5)
35 Pass as an officer (3)
36 Avoid by a trick (5)
37 Tip of a plant? (5)
38 The sort of man targeted? (5)

DOWN
1 It's a big thing in dentistry (5)
2 An expert at throwing and catching (7)
4 Operation for which you need the right backup (4)
5 Catches fish by degrees? (6)
6 Skinflint getting faultless service on the motorway (5)
7 It has links with the mail, maybe (5)
9 Grandma's bread? (3)
12 Notably tense and ready to play (5,2)
14 It gets a racing driver nowhere (3)
16 Belief in looking unmoved when given a rise? (5)
17 Whence, in Wales, a new hat is on the way (5)
19 Stay with, as a loyal adherent (5,2)
20 School for love in the wild west (5)
21 Birds in bars (5)
23 Criticise long, and in dashing style! (7)
24 Enemies of poetry? (6)
25 Natural resource maybe helping to make millions (3)
27 Forename of the six-footer in front (5)
28 Ludwig's Italian (5)
30 It's built with sound glue at the medical centre (5)
32 Trouble from a guerilla (4)
33 A diminutive Australian bounder (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 137

EASY
ACROSS: 3, Stops; 8, Bonus; 10, Acres; 11, Tie; 12, Cello; 13, Bolster; 15, Arena; 18, Sin; 19, Ocelot; 21, Lecture; 22, Aces; 23, Coda; 24, Rainbow; 26, Gravel; 29, Oar; 31, Salad; 32, Scholar; 34, Set to; 35, Nap; 36, Agree; 37, Beget; 38, Smirk.
DOWN: 1, Rotor; 2, Guesses; 4, Tier; 5, Palace; 6, Score; 7, Beano; 9, Nil; 12, Central; 14, Tic; 16, Elbow; 17, Atlas; 19, Orinoco; 20, Fangs; 21, Legal; 23, Coronet; 24, Redeem; 25, Bath; 27, Range; 28, Vases; 30, Lapel; 32, Stir; 33, Lag.

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 3, Dr-E-am 8, B-onus 10, Night 11, Lag 12, Kings 13, Tangled 15, Let in 18, La-y 19, Serene 21, Rep-E-ats 22, Tear 23, Pest 24, Fur coat 26, Wallop 29, K-in 31, Ens-U-e 32, At large 34, I'm-ago 35, Col. 36, Dodge 37, Shoot 38, Inner.
DOWN: 1, Molar 2, Juggler 4, R-eid 5, Angles 6, Mi-ser 7, Chain 9, Nan 12, Keyed up 14, Lap 16, Tenet (rev.) 17, NE-ath 19, Stick to 20, St-O-we 21, Rails 23, Pan-ache 24, Foemen 25, Oil 27, Ant-on 28, Luigi 30, I-gloo 32, Ague 33, Roo.

Wknd. STYLE

Statement functional accessories can add colour and style to your summer ensembles

SUMMER STYLE

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

COMFORT COMES FIRST

Prioritise comfort over style in the summer months. Go for a wardrobe with clothes in breathable fabrics. Natural materials such as cotton and linen are ideal in this season. Synthetic fabrics trap heat and perspiration, keeping you uncomfortable when the mercury rises. This is especially so if you spend time outdoors, exposed to harsh sunlight.

HUES AND FIT

Light colours are best-suited for the summer days. Shades of white and pastel colours work well for you this season. Loose silhouettes keep you comfortable in the daytime. Flowing outfits such as wide-leg trousers or maxis can be staples. Go for lightweight accessories and jewellery. You can add a stylish edge with a hat and sunglasses.

MODEL: AISHWARYA RAMESH
BRAND: MR BOWERBIRD
PHOTOGRAPHER: JITEN AGARWAL

MODEL: ARADHANAA R
BRAND: MR BOWERBIRD
PHOTOGRAPHER: JITEN AGARWAL

Dressing with purpose, power and personal joy

Statement dressing empowers you to express confidence, creativity and heritage without saying a word, writes **Prasad Bidapa**

Fashion Notes

International Women's Day is more than a date on the calendar - it is a moment of reflection on identity, independence and the many ways women express themselves in the world. In Bengaluru, a city where global modernity meets deep-rooted cultural heritage, Women's Day style can be a powerful expression of individuality. A meaningful way to celebrate it is by dressing in a manner that reflects confidence, comfort and authenticity.

True empowerment in dressing begins with self-awareness. It is not about following trends blindly or seeking approval from others. Instead, it is about understanding one's own personality, lifestyle and cultural context. A woman who feels comfortable and confident in what she wears naturally carries an air of authority and grace. Whether it is a beautifully draped handwoven saree, sharply tailored power suit, fluid linen dress or a contemporary fusion ensemble, the key is that the choice comes from within.

For women in Bengaluru, International Women's Day can be an opportunity to celebrate both individuality and heritage. A striking Kanjeevaram or Ilkal saree paired with a modern blouse, handwoven khadi dress or a structured jacket worn with a silk skirt can create a look that feels both rooted and progressive. Jewellery can be minimal, yet meaningful - perhaps a pair of heirloom earrings, bold cuff or handcrafted silver pieces that echo the spirit of artisanal India.

Dressing to please oneself rather than others is an act of personal freedom. Fashion can pressurise women into conforming to expectations - what is considered 'appropriate', 'trendy' or 'acceptable'. Empowered dressing rejects this idea. Instead, it prioritises how the wearer feels. When a woman looks in the mirror and sees strength, elegance and individuality reflected back at her, the outfit has succeeded.

Statement dressing plays an important role in this philosophy. A statement piece is not necessarily loud or extravagant - it is something that communicates identity. It could be a dramatic textile, vibrant colour, distinctive silhouette or a handcrafted garment that carries a story. Statement dressing allows women to express ideas - confidence, creativity or heritage - without saying a word.

Ultimately, International Women's Day style in Bengaluru should celebrate the freedom to choose. The most powerful outfit is the one that reflects a woman's true self - comfortable and proud. Fashion then becomes not just decoration, but a quiet, yet unmistakable, declaration of independence.

MODEL: AMBER DUDLEY
DESIGNER: TARUN TAHILIANI
PHOTOGRAPHER: ABHIRUP BISWAS

DH DECCAN HERALD
Wknd. SUMMER

Water-rich foods replenish the electrolytes lost through profuse sweating

EAT RIGHT

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

VEGGIES FOR HYDRATION

The warm days call for more hydrating vegetables in your daily diet. These vegetables add to the water you need to consume daily to prevent dehydration and low energy that can happen in the summer months. Include vegetables such as cauliflower (has 90 per cent water content), cucumber (has 95 per cent water content) and tomato (has 95 per cent water content) in your daily diet.

FRUITS FOR THE SEASON

The summer heat is on. This is the time for fruits with high water content. These fruits not only refresh you, they also give you the vitamins, electrolytes and antioxidants you need. So, include fruits such as orange (has 85 per cent water content), strawberry (has 90 per cent water content) and watermelon (has 95 per cent water content) as a part of your daily diet.

Beat the heat

Jayanthi Madhukar has some refreshing drinks to keep you cool through the summer days

Summer Sips

Summer coolers are designed to cool the body and quench thirst. Usually, these drinks are served in tall glasses with lots of ice. The formula to make these coolers is open to interpretation and you can use many other seasonal fruits in an innovative manner. For instance, you can dice musk melon and use it as floaters on a drink or garnish a drink with thin, fresh citrus slices, celery, a splash of apple cider or even gratings of dark chocolate. Simple syrup – an equal mix of sugar and water – is generally used since it is easier to stir in whenever required.

Here are five simple summer coolers which you can serve at a house party or to guests who have dropped in for a casual visit.

Basil Cucumber Cocktail

What you need:

- Half a cup each of cucumber, peeled and chopped and fresh lime juice
- Half a teaspoon of grated ginger
- 2-4 basil leaves
- Quarter cup of water
- One tablespoon of honey or sugar syrup

Preparation:

Put the chopped cucumber, ginger, basil leaves, lime juice, water and sweetener into a blender. Blend until smooth. Sieve through a fine mesh strainer.

Serve the juice cold. You can garnish it with a thin slice of cucumber and a basil leaf.

Spicy Watermelon Mocktail

What you need:

- Two cups of fresh watermelon (de-seeded)
- One tablespoon of lime juice
- Quarter cup of simple syrup, for taste
- Half a jalapeno (sliced)
- Soda water

Preparation:

Blend watermelon and jalapeno in a blender. Strain and add lime juice and simple syrup. Pour it into an ice-filled tall glass. Top with soda or plain water. Garnish with a sprig of mint leaf and a lemon wedge.

Aloe Vera Juice

What you need:

- One mature aloe vera leaf
- One cup of water
- 1-2 tablespoons of lemon juice
- Half a teaspoon of honey

Preparation:

Wash the leaf thoroughly. Cut off the spiky edges. Stand the leaf upright in a container for 10 minutes so that the yellow, bitter sap drains out. Remove the leaf and cut off its lower end and slice the top green skin with a sharp knife. The inner gel will now be exposed which you can scoop out using a spoon. Rinse the gel with water and blend two tablespoons of the gel with one cup water in a blender (you can use coconut water instead of water if you choose to). Sieve the juice through a fine mesh and add the honey and lime juice to the filtered juice.

Serve it with ice.

Prenatal counselling ensures healthy pregnancy

Apart from the routine tests and screening, prenatal counselling addresses the emotional and psychological aspects of pregnancy too, explains **Dr Kavitha Kovi**, Head of Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, **Aster Women and Children Hospital, Whitefield**

Dr Kavitha Kovi

As healthcare systems evolve, prenatal counselling is increasingly seen as a standard component of maternal care, reflecting a shift toward preventive, informed and holistic approaches to pregnancy. Prenatal counselling is increasingly recognised as an essential component of motherhood. Prenatal counselling or pre-pregnancy gynaecology visit helps prospective parents take informed decisions, reduces anxiety and promotes both physical and emotional well-being during pregnancy.

Prenatal counselling provides comprehensive guidance on nutrition, lifestyle and prenatal health. The importance of a balanced diet, adequate intake of vitamins and minerals, and regular physical activity is reinforced for those who wish to get pregnant. This is the time when prenatal multi-vitamins and folic acid are recommended to cover most of the nutrients that are needed by the body for a healthy pregnancy. Which is why comprehensive nutritional information is sought during the prenatal counselling. The weight, BMI and any relevant information on substance abuse are looked at. Advice is then prescribed according to the findings. For instance, a woman with a high BMI is advised to lose some weight before getting pregnant.

Before pregnancy, it helps to review the personal and family medical history of the would-be mother thoroughly. Detailed check-ups will look for fibroids and any other chronic medical issues. By looking into the medicine chart, the would-be mother is advised on the medicines she is taking such as anti-acne medication, blood thinner, BP medicine and what needs to be addressed before pregnancy. A blood test to screen for thyroid issues and diabetes, apart from looking into any genetic conditions in the family, is advised. The woman is also screened for infectious diseases that could compromise the pregnancy. Advice is given on the vaccinations a would-be mother needs to take too.

Emotional well-being

Beyond physical health, prenatal counselling addresses the emotional and psychological aspects of pregnancy too. Hormonal changes, stress and anxiety are common during this period, and counselling provides strategies to cope effectively. Encouraging communication and family support are also a key focus, contributing to a healthier environment for the baby.

Prenatal counselling is not limited to individuals with medical risks. It is recommended for anyone planning to conceive, those with chronic health conditions, women with previous pregnancy complications and first-time parents. Basically, these counselling sessions cover medical screenings, immunisations and monitoring strategies that ensure the health of both mother and child throughout gestation. The counselling sessions equip families with knowledge about prenatal care, warning signs and preparation for childbirth, making them a proactive step rather than a reactive one.

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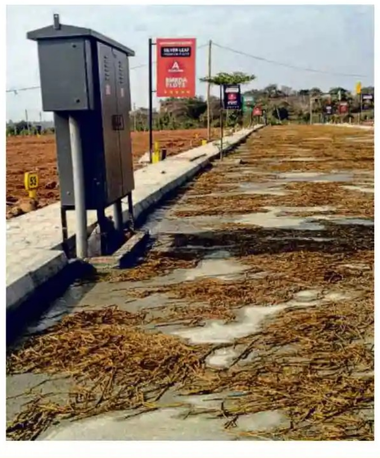
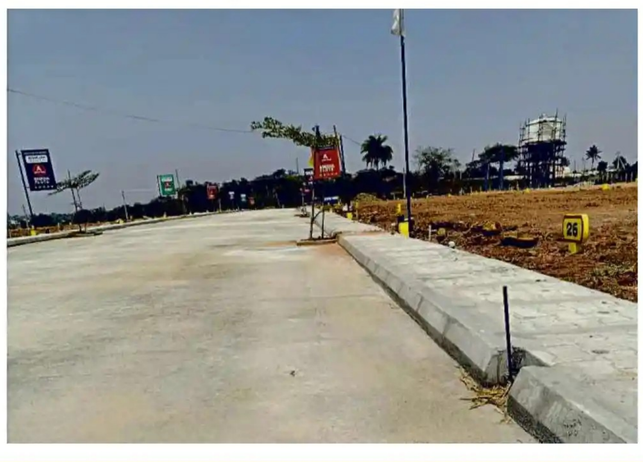

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